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ABSTRACT

This booklet is intended to be used as background material by social studies and history classroom teachers as they develop and implement educational programs on Oklahoma's heritage. It includes background information on the land and people of Oklahoma (geology, climate, topography, vegetation, animals, prehistoric peoples, French explorers, Indians, American explorers, early settlers, and the dust bowl and the Great Depression), governors of Oklahoma, county names, state government, famous Oklahomans, tourism, women, blacks, and minority groups. Maps and charts are used liberally throughout the document to illustrate the text. The document concludes with a bibliography of materials on Oklahoma, published between 1970 and 1980. (DB)

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Pride In Oklahoma

1981

Prepared By

Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oklahoma Historical Society
Diamond Jubilee Commission

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Foreward

This Diamond Jubilee edition of *Pride in Oklahoma* is dedicated to all of the great Oklahomans who have made this such a wonderful place to live. We are all proud of our heritage—its many influences have combined to provide us with a richness rarely equalled in other regions of our great nation. We hope that the school children of the state through their fine teachers come to appreciate the heritage we all enjoy.

Leslie Fisher
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Oklahoma: The Land and its People

Geology

The land that was to become Oklahoma was first formed over one billion years ago. Sedimentary and igneous rocks were forced through the surface of the earth and became the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains. At the time, these were among the highest mountains on Earth. However, they were unprotected from the elements, and were eroded over the ages until they have become the gentle hills of today.

Later, during the Pennsylvanian Age, rock made of sediments from earlier ages was exposed. This rock makes up more than one-third of Oklahoma's land surface. The trees of the vast forests of the Pennsylvanian Age, when they died and decayed, accumulated and were compressed and heated. The result of this process was the formation of much of the coal and petroleum that is found in Oklahoma.

The eastern part of the state is formed from rocks of these older periods. In the West, however, the rock is younger, because much of western Oklahoma was under large inland seas. The rocks made of materials from this period, the Permian, are the sandstones and shales of the Great Plains, as well as gypsum, alabaster, dolomite and other sedimentary rocks. Younger rocks of the Tertiary and Quarternary Periods are the sandstones of the High Plains and alluvial deposits along rivers.

Climate

Oklahoma has a variety of climates, with the East very wet and West semiarid. The eastern portion of the state has more than fifty inches of rain a year, and is very much like the southeastern United States. The central portion averages thirty inches of rain per year, but this figure is misleading. Many years Oklahoma City receives more than thirty inches of precipitation, while other years it receives much less. In the West, which averages less than twenty inches per year, the differences from year to year are much greater. This is the semiarid climate, so-called because some years it is truly arid, while other years it is humid. Periods of drought have affected the state, such as the Dirty Thirties (1930s; the Dust Bowl) and the Filthy Fifties (the 1950s).

Topography

Oklahoma is drained by two great river systems, the Arkansas and Red. The Arkansas River is fed by the South and North Canadian, Cimarron, Salt Fork, Grand, Verdigris and Illinois rivers. The Red is fed by the Salt Fork, North Fork, Washita and Kiamichi rivers. The state is drained from northwest to southeast, with Black Mesa in the northwest corner of the Panhandle the highest point of land, and the southeastern corner of McCurtain County the lowest.

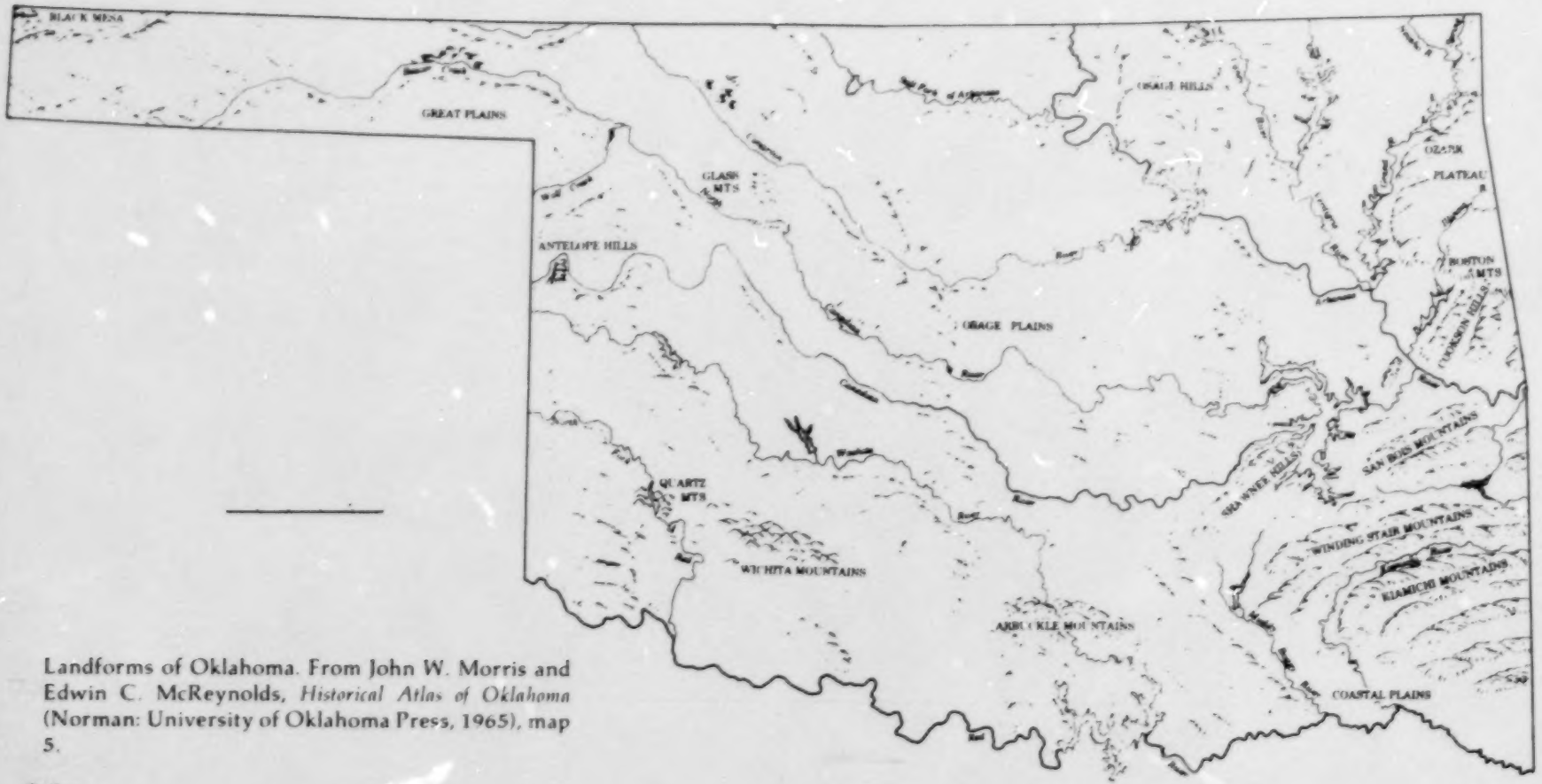
Vegetation and Animals

Oklahoma has a wide variety of plant life, from the forests of the Southeast to the grasses of the Panhandle. Animals include buffalo or bison, elk, deer, antelope, rabbit, bear, raccoon, oppossum, wolves, coyote, fox, squirrel, skunk, prairie dog, mountain lion and bobcat. Fish include bass, trout and catfish, and birds include turkey, quail, hawks and eagles, with smaller birds such as cardinals, blue jays, wrens, catbirds and the state bird, the scissortail flycatcher.

Prehistoric Peoples

The earliest inhabitants of Oklahoma were among the first people to live on the North American continent. Arriving over 10,000 years ago, these people lived very simple lives, hunting the herds of ancient bison, sloth and mastodon. These people, because they often lived in caves or under rock ledges, are known as Cave Dwellers. They left few remains of their life, because they travelled constantly and had few possessions. However, some sites have been excavated and these sites give us much information on the life of the first inhabitants of Oklahoma.

Over the next several centuries, the cave dwellers developed a way of life that became known as the Mound Culture. These people built ceremonial mounds in the area from eastern Oklahoma to the Ohio Valley to the southeastern United States. Spiro and Parris Mound are examples of this culture. These people lived in Oklahoma from 800 A.D. to about 1400 A.D. Their descendents became the farming tribes of the region.



Landforms of Oklahoma. From John W. Morris and Edwin C. McReynolds, *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965), map 5.

Spanish Explorers

The written history of Oklahoma began in 1540 when the Spanish *conquistador* Francisco Vasquez de Coronado crossed western Oklahoma in search of the fabled City of Gold known as Gran Quivira. He met the Wichita Indians living near the Great Bend of the Arkansas River in Kansas. He found no gold and returned to Mexico.

While Coronado was crossing western Oklahoma, another Spaniard, Hernan de Soto, was searching for gold in the eastern United States. He discovered Little Rock in Arkansas and may have visited the eastern part of Oklahoma. He died on the journey and the survivors of his expedition returned to Mexico.

In 1601, another Spaniard, Juan de Onate, retraced the steps of Coronado in search of the mythical city of Quivira. He may not have crossed Oklahoma, but his expedition made a claim to the entire Great Plains of North America, of which Oklahoma is a part.

French Explorers

No foreigners journeyed into Oklahoma until the French began to explore in the 1700s. Benard de La Harpe visited a group of Wichitas near present-day Tulsa in 1719, and Charles Dutisne visited the Osage and Wichita in northern Oklahoma the same year. A group of French traders, the Mallet brothers, returning from Santa Fe, New Mexico, crossed central Oklahoma in 1740. Fabry de la Bruyere traveled to New Mexico in 1742 and reported the presence of French traders and hunters among the Wichita Indians then living on the Arkansas River in northern Oklahoma. These traders and hunters lived in two Wichita villages near the Kansas border. Later, map makers would name one of these Wichita villages "Ferdinandina" and declare it the first white settlement in Oklahoma.

The French lost control of Louisiana in 1763 to the Spanish after the French and Indian War. The Spanish did not do any major exploration of the area during this time, but records do exist of the Indian tribes that lived in the area. When the French reclaimed Louisiana in 1801 from the Spanish, they immediately looked for a buyer of this large area. The United States, led by President Thomas Jefferson, purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. The area that is now Oklahoma then became a part of the United States.

American Explorers

President Jefferson was very interested in scientific matters and he sent several expeditions into this new land. The most famous was the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1805-1806, which did not cross Oklahoma. However, other Americans visited the land that became Oklahoma. Major Zebulon M. Pike was sent to find the western boundary of Louisiana, along the "Stony" (Rocky) Mountains, in 1807. His second-in-command, Lt. James Wilkinson, became ill, and was sent with a number of men down the Arkansas River. They traveled through Oklahoma, the first Americans to officially cross the state.

In 1809 a scientific expedition led by Thomas James crossed Oklahoma, and much information concerning the plant and animal life of the state was recorded. In 1819, a group of soldiers led by Maj. Stephen Long crossed the central part of Oklahoma, and reported of the "Great American Desert." He crossed the state during one of the droughts that plagued the state. His reports caused President Monroe and his successors to decide to send the eastern Indians to Oklahoma to remove them from land that whites wanted.

Later expeditions were made, including the Sibley expedition of 1811, the Dragoon expedition of the 1830s, the Washington Irving "Tour on the Prairies," and the Marcy expedition of 1852.

The Indians

Oklahoma was in the middle of an area that was hunted by several Indian tribes, including the Osage, Comanche, Quapaw, Kiowa and Apache. The Osage and Wichita had a few permanent towns and farmlands, while the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache followed the bison and had no permanent homes.

After 1800 the federal government viewed thinly peopled Oklahoma as a refuge for eastern tribes being pushed from their homes by whites moving west. They decided to allow the southern Indians to move there voluntarily, which some Cherokees and Choctaws did in the 1810s and 1820s. However, when most of the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole) did not move, the government forced the tribes to sign treaties giving up their eastern homes in exchange for land in Oklahoma. Beginning in the mid-1820s, these tribes were forced to move west in a series of marches in what became known as "The Trail of Tears." These Indians had established farms, towns and governments in the east, trying to adopt the "white man's ways," but their land was too valuable for the whites to overlook. After moving to Oklahoma, they reestablished their governments, schools, towns and farms. To protect them from raiding tribes of Plains Indians, the army established forts for defense. Fort Gibson was established in 1824

4

for this purpose, and forts Towson, Washita, Holmes, and others were set up later as the tribes began to move further west.

Stand Watie, a leader of the Cherokees after removal, was also a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. He was the last general officer to surrender to Union forces after the end of the Civil War.

The Civil War

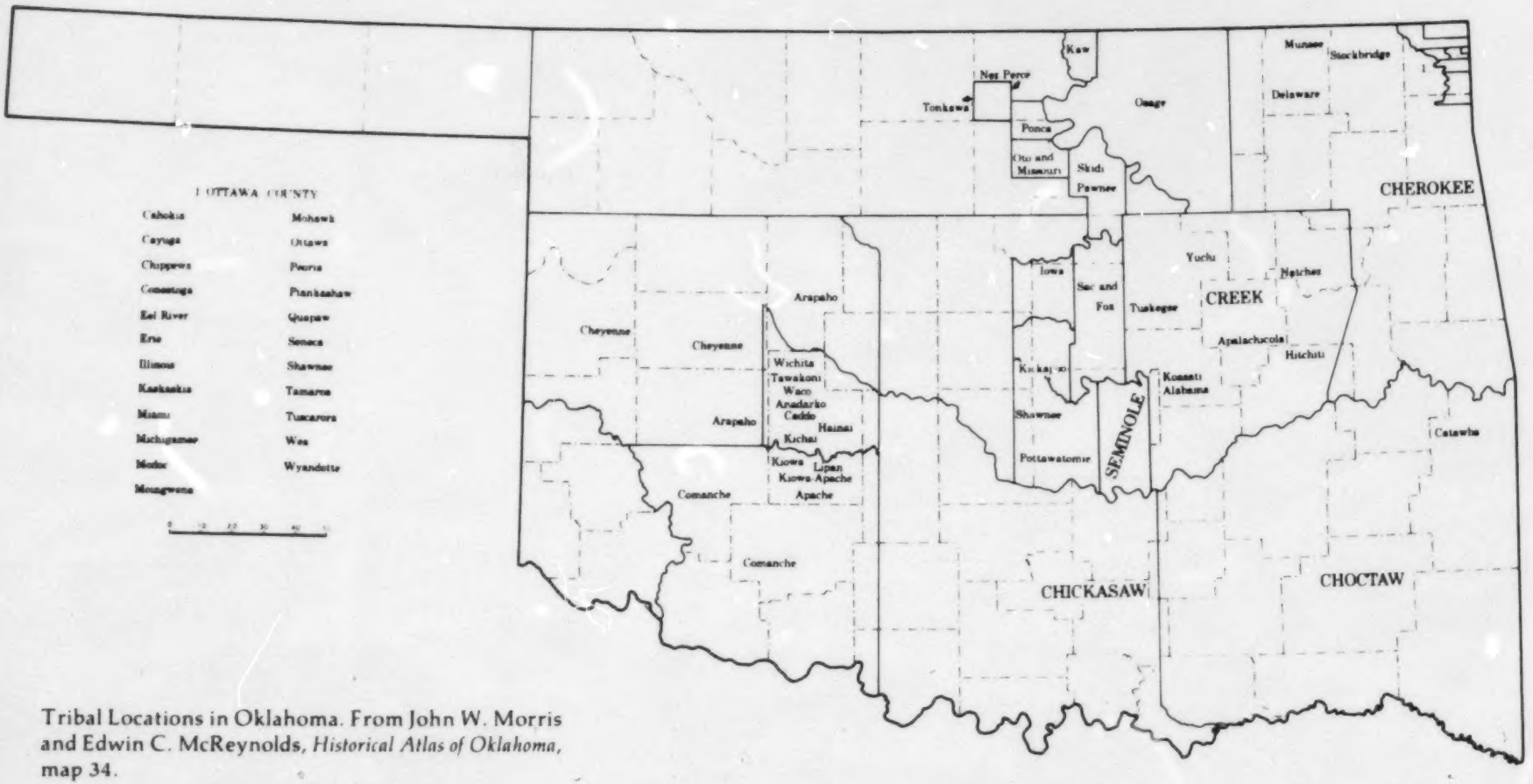
Unfortunately for the Five Civilized Tribes, many of their members were affected by the same problems that affected Americans during the Civil War. Although they had been forced from their homes by the state governments in the South, many Indians sympathized with the Southern side in the war. When the war came, the United States Army abandoned the forts in Oklahoma to the Confederates in Texas, who began to negotiate treaties of alliance with the Indians to fight against the United States. The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations quickly joined with the South, while the Creeks, Seminoles and Cherokees were divided over the question of supporting the Confederacy. Finally, the Creeks and Cherokees joined with the South, and Indian forces were organized to fight with the Confederates. At the Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas, the Confederates and Indians were beaten and forced to give up Missouri and much of Arkansas to federal control. The Indians retreated into Indian Territory, where they fought the invading Union armies at Honey Springs and other battlefields. Over eighty historical sites concerning the Civil War are located in Oklahoma.

Reconstruction and Reservations in Indian Territory

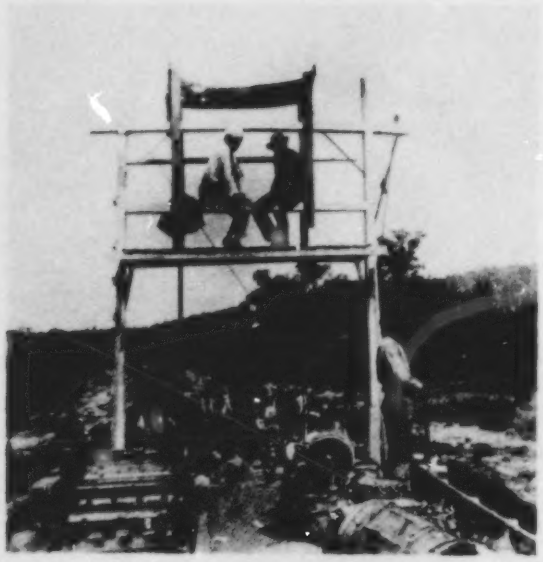
When the Confederates surrendered in 1865, the Indian tribes were placed in a bad position. Many Indians had supported the South. However, other Indians joined with the North and fought for the Union. This division, which prevented the tribal governments from working together, allowed the federal government to make severe demands upon the Indians. When the United States government negotiated new treaties with the Five Civilized Tribes after the war, they made the Indians give up claim to the western part of the state. Into this area the government began moving Plains tribes which were defeated in a series of wars ending in the 1880s. The Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, Wichita, Caddo, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes were relocated in Oklahoma at this time. Finally, by 1889, over 67 Indian tribes were located within the boundaries of what has become Oklahoma.

The Coming of the Whites

Through the Reconstruction Treaties of 1866 with the Five Civilized Tribes, the federal government set the stage for the opening of the Indian Territory for settlement by whites. The first group of whites to learn of Oklahoma were the cattlemen of Texas and Kansas. During the Civil War, large herds of cattle were permitted to run wild in Texas. When the soldiers returned to their homes after the war, they found many unbranded cattle. In Texas, these cattle were almost worthless, but in the East they were very valuable. Cattlemen bought branded cattle, rounded up unbranded cattle and formed trail herds to drive to the railroads in the North. The first drives went to Sedalia, Missouri, in 1865, but in 1866 went to the first of the great cowtowns , Kansas, Abilene. This marked the beginning of the great Texas cattle drives. Over a trail scouted by a part-Cherokee named Jesse Chisholm, thousands of cattle were driven to Abilene, Wichita, Caldwell and Dodge City. Both the Chisholm and the Great Western (or Dodge City) trails crossed Oklahoma. Later, cattlemen leased lands on the reservations in western Oklahoma and kept cattle the y ar-round. The cattlemen, although they did not want the land opened to farmers, did want the land reserved for herding and pasture. They, then, were the first group of whites who wanted to take the land away from the Indians.



Tribal Locations in Oklahoma. From John W. Morris and Edwin C. McReynolds, *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*, map 34.



Railroad construction crews like this one became a familiar sight in post-Civil War Indian Territory.

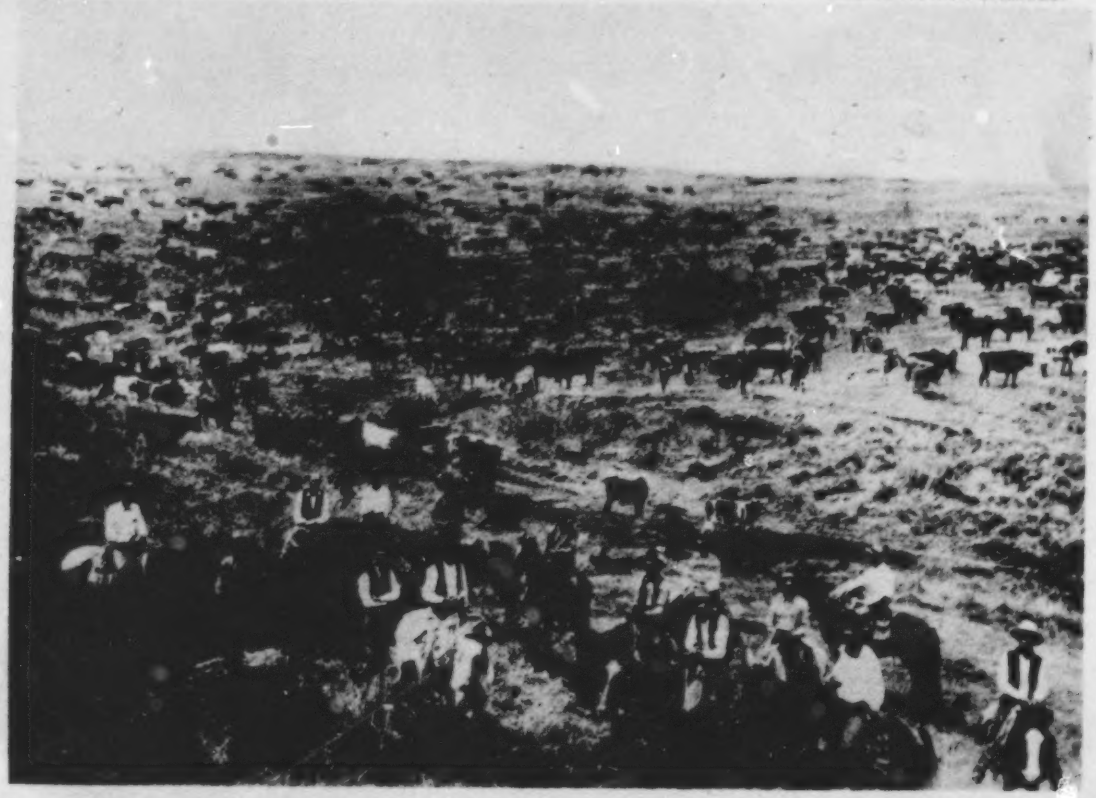
The next group that desired the opening of the Indian lands for white settlement were the railroad men. The treaties of 1866 gave railroads permission to build through the Indian lands. In 1870, the Missouri, Kansas and Texas (Katy) Railroad began laying track into Oklahoma. By 1873, they had reached the Texas border. The railroads suffered from lack of customers, however, for the lands were still unsettled. One railroad president said that he was the only man to build a railroad through a 270 mile-long tunnel.

Railroad officials pressured the federal government into opening the Indian lands for white settlement, because the whites would use their railroads and they then would make money.

The Boomers

A major group interested in opening Oklahoma was the Boomers, people who tried to settle in Oklahoma even though it was against the law. Led by David L. Payne, a Civil War veteran, these Boomers demanded the opening of Oklahoma. Many of the Boomers came to Arkansas City, set up a small city outside that town, and waited to make the journey

Large herds of longhorn cattle were driven across western Oklahoma to railroad towns in Kansas.



into Oklahoma. Twice each year from 1880 to 1884 Payne led groups of settlers into Oklahoma, each time to be arrested and escorted back to Kansas by cavalry stationed at Fort Reno. Even after Payne died in 1884, the Boomers still made the yearly trips into Oklahoma, led by Payne's successor, William L. Couch. By 1886, the Boomers had become so numerous that more troops were stationed in Oklahoma than any other territory or state east of the Rocky Mountains. Something had to be done.

The Openings

By 1889 pressure became so intense that Congress passed a law that allowed the land known as the Unassigned Lands, or the Oklahoma Country, to be opened for white settlement. The method of the opening was to be a new, untried way: the land would go to the man or woman that could get there first in a land run. President Benjamin Harrison set a date of April 22, 1889, at 12:00 noon, as the time for the start of the run. By the morning of April 22, there were more than 50,000 people lined up on the borders of the Unassigned Lands. When the signal was made, the people rode horses, drove wagons, boarded trains or ran and made their way to the choicest spots in the new land. When those making the run got to their selected land, many times they found someone already on their prospective claim. These people were called "sooners," meaning any person who entered Oklahoma before the legal time and made a claim too soon.

The federal government had not provided laws for the new territory, so the people in Oklahoma decided to make their own laws. Setting up town governments, holding elections and settling land disputes, these provisional governments served an important purpose until the United States established Oklahoma Territory in May of 1890.

In 1890, the Panhandle, known as the Public Strip or No Man's Land, was added to the newly-established territory. In 1891, the Pottawatomi, Iowa and Sac and Fox Reservations were opened for settlement by run. On September 16, 1891, these lands were added to Oklahoma Territory and settlers made runs to establish towns and farms in this new land.

On April 19, 1892, the large Cheyenne-Arapaho Reservation in western Oklahoma was opened for settlement in a land run. Then, on September 16, 1893, the largest of the land runs was held. The Cherokee Outlet, comprising over 6,000,000 acres, was opened. More than 100,000 people made the run. Although there were more than twice as many people making the run as claims available, this land was settled peacefully and added to the Oklahoma Territory. Finally, on May 23, 1895, the Kickapoo Reservation east of Oklahoma City was opened by run.

The government learned much from these runs. When more Indian lands were opened, the government decided to hold lotteries rather than land runs. A person would register for a claim. When his or her

After entering Oklahoma, the Boomers led by David Payne were arrested by Army troops and taken back to Kansas.

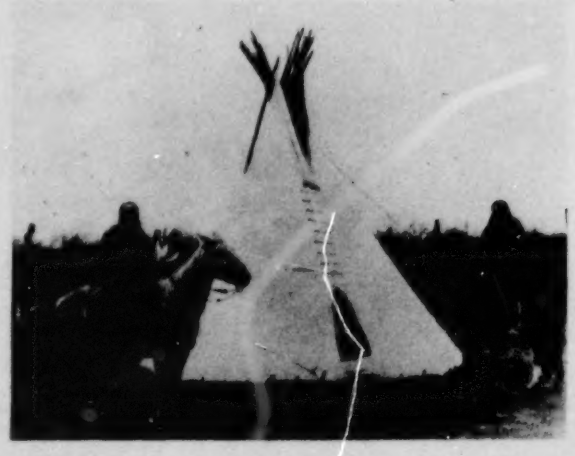
The Land Run of 1893.

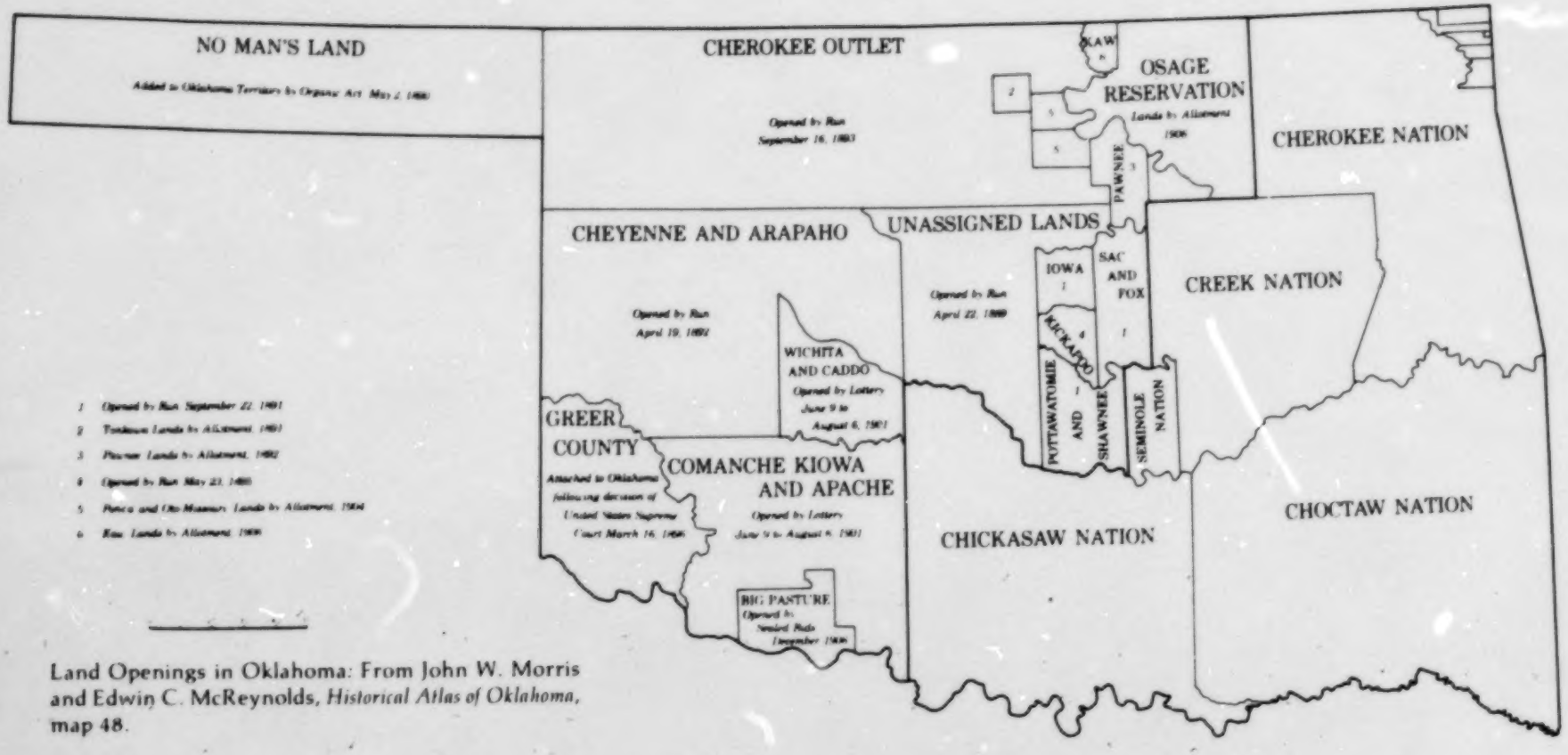
name was drawn, they would receive a plot of land. This was first tried in the opening of the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache reservations in southwestern Oklahoma. Held in the summer of 1901, thousands of people registered for the claims in El Reno. When the Wichita and Caddo reservations were also opened, these lands were added to those still available from the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache reservation so that there was enough land to go around. Later, other reservations were opened, mainly through the process of giving the Indians allotments, or plots of land, with the remainder going to the first white to claim it. The Tonkawa (1891), Ponca, Otoe, Missouri (1904), Osage and Kaw (1906) lands were opened by this method. Finally, a small amount of grazing land, known as the Big Pasture, was opened by auction in 1906.

Tribes in Transition

With the coming of the railroads and cattlemen, the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes were faced with the intrusion of whites on land that originally had been guaranteed to Indians "for as long as the rivers flow and the grasses grow." With the railroads came white construction workers, who settled on Indian land without permission. Often there were more whites in an area than Indians, and the Indian governments were powerless to drive out the intruders. Other whites married Indians, became citizens of the Indian tribes, and began to control the tribal governments. The discovery of coal, zinc, and other precious minerals brought in more outsiders. By 1890, there were five whites for every Indian in Indian Territory.

The way of life of the Indians in Oklahoma was greatly changed in the years following the Civil War.





Land Openings in Oklahoma: From John W. Morris and Edwin C. McReynolds, *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*, map 48.

The government then decided to open the Indians' land for white settlement. Each Indian received 160 acres of land and the remainder was sold to whites.

Drive for Statehood

With only a territorial government in the West and tribal governments in the East, Oklahomans began to demand statehood. As early as the middle 1890s bills were introduced in Congress to establish Oklahoma as a state. However, opposition forced statehood to be postponed until 1907.

Meanwhile, the people in Indian Territory organized a drive to separate Indian Territory from Oklahoma Territory, and to establish the separate State of Sequoyah. The proposed state was named after the great Cherokee educator who invented a syllabary and allowed the Cherokees to become the first Indian tribe with a written language. When this movement failed in 1906, Congress finally passed a law that allowed Oklahoma Territory to join with Indian Territory and to become the State of Oklahoma. A Constitutional Convention was held in Guthrie, the territorial capital. A constitution was written, elections were held, and President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Oklahoma a State on November 16, 1907, eighteen years after the first opening.

Oklahoma the State

When Oklahoma entered the Union on November 16, 1907, many problems faced the young state. Inherited from territorial days was prohibition of alcoholic beverages in the Indian Territory. Prohibition was extended across all of Oklahoma with the passage of a law (known as the Billups Booze Bill, named after its author, Richard Billups) that made the sale of liquor and alcohol illegal in the state.

Another problem that faced the early legislators in Oklahoma was segregation. Many Oklahomans were from southern states, where laws had been passed that kept blacks from voting. Although such restrictions could not be included in the Oklahoma Constitution, soon after statehood a law was passed by the state legislature that required a voter to take a literacy test before voting. If a person could not pass the test, he could not vote. This law kept blacks from voting, because few blacks had gone to school. Many whites could vote because of the so-called "Grandfather Clause," which allowed people to vote if their grandfathers had voted. This law and others that prevented blacks from using the same public facilities as whites were passed, restricting the freedom of blacks.

Other problems that faced the early state were lack of roads, schools, colleges, and other institutions that were available to people of older states. The first state legislature passed many laws that established these institutions, as well as laws regulating banks and corporations. The first session of the Oklahoma Legislature passed more bills than any other session in state history.

Road construction was emphasized in early Oklahoma.

The Constitutional Convention of Oklahoma in Guthrie, 1906.

A major controversy of the administration of Governor Haskell, the first state Governor, was the moving of the capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City. Although the Enabling Act required that the capital remain in Guthrie until 1912, Governor Haskell had an election held to decide whether to move the capital, and where to move it if the people of Oklahoma agreed. A vote was held on June 11, 1910, and it was decided that the capital was to move to Oklahoma City. That night, Governor Haskell moved to Oklahoma City, had important state papers and the State Seal taken to his headquarters at the Huckins Hotel, and declared Oklahoma City the State Capital of Oklahoma. Although the people of Guthrie protested the action in court, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the capital could be moved.

Prospering Oklahoma

Although there were many problems in the early days of statehood, Oklahoma was prospering. Improved roads and schools, as well as increased industry, added to the wealth of the state. Source of much of this wealth was oil. Even before statehood oil had been discovered at Bartlesville, and the Glenn Pool discovery of 1905 was the first great oil strike of Oklahoma's history. Soon, oil wells were being drilled all over north-central Oklahoma, with discoveries at the Tonkawa, Osage, Cushing, and other major oilfields. Many people flocked to the oil boom towns to either work for the drilling companies or, by running saloons and gambling houses, to take away the wildcatters' money. This was just the beginning of the great Oklahoma oil boom.

Even as oilmen were becoming wealthy from their wells, farmers were enjoying a period of prosperity. Rains were regular and record crops were grown. This "Golden Age of Agriculture" put Oklahoma near the lead in farming and ranching in the country.

Some problems were evident, however. Laws that had been passed by the early legislature were being ignored and broken. Prohibition was hard to enforce, and laws prohibiting gambling were openly broken. Governor Cruce had a law passed that allowed him to name special agents to enforce state laws, and he also called out the National Guard to stop horse races and gambling several times. Although state laws were still being broken in the boom towns, most laws were enforced in Oklahoma.

While Oklahoma was enjoying good times, the rest of the world was not. In 1914 World War I began in Europe, and the people of Oklahoma watched as Germany, France, and England fought. Although the United States was officially neutral, many Oklahomans supported the French and British. Oklahomans of German descent were terrorized by British supporters, and riots occurred in Oklahoma as people attacked homes and stores owned by people with German names. On the other hand, when the United States entered the war in 1917 on the side of the British and French, some Oklahomans protested the war. In the Green Corn Rebellion, near McAlester, a group of war protesters rioted. Most Oklahomans, however, vigorously supported the war, joined the army, and were very patriotic. Oklahoma grew crops for the army and for the homeless people in Europe, and war industries were begun in the state.

When the war ended in 1918, Oklahomans returned to peacetime. Some people were not happy with the economy after the war. Labor groups went on strike for higher wages. Miners and farmers, hurt severely by rising prices and dropping incomes, joined together to form a new political party, the Farmer-Labor Reconstruction League. Also, many people were afraid that blacks would ask for more rights after they had served in the army during the war. Racial tensions mounted in the state, with many lynchings taking place. In Tulsa in 1920, a race riot occurred. Most of the black section of that city was burned. Over one hundred people were killed in the fighting. Things were not as good as they had looked.

Political Instability

Politics in Oklahoma reflected the discontent of the people of Oklahoma. Many people, including women, who had won the right to vote in 1919, were dissatisfied with the way the Democratic Party had been running state government. In 1920 Oklahoma voters elected Republicans to a majority in the state House of Representatives and to a United States Senate seat. The Democratic Party of Oklahoma, even though it regained the majority of the House in 1922, recognized that Oklahomans were uneasy about Oklahoma government. In 1922, a major threat to Democratic rule surfaced when the Farmer-Labor Reconstruction League, helped by dissatisfied Democrats, elected Jack Walton Governor. Walton introduced reforms into the Legislature which were meant to improve conditions for workers in Oklahoma. The Legislature had many members opposed to change, and Walton was unable to force his program through.

At the same time as his fight with the Legislature, Walton was faced with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. Although originally organized to fight the growing

Oil discoveries in eastern Oklahoma made Tulsa the "Oil Capital of the World" and Oklahoma famous for its oil wealth.

lawlessness in the state, the secret organization soon became a group that discriminated against blacks, foreigners, and members of certain religious groups. Opponents of the Klan were beaten and their houses burned. Many politicians joined the Klan in order to win votes. To combat the Ku Klux Klan, Governor Walton called out the National Guard and declared martial law in Oklahoma. The State Legislature, opposed to Walton and his attempts to control the state without their approval, impeached the Governor, charging him with a number of crimes. The Senate, including many Klan members, removed Governor Walton from office. He was the first state Governor to be impeached and removed.

The Legislature, influenced by the Ku Klux Klan, was now the most powerful group in Oklahoma. However, Walton's successor, Martin Trapp, was able to restore confidence in the office of Governor, while having laws passed to improve roads in the state.

New roads were important to Oklahoma at that time, because further oil discoveries were being made. The Seminole field was discovered in 1923, and later in the 1920s, the Edmond, Crescent and Oklahoma City fields were tapped. Trapp was able to have more roads built during his term of office than any other Governor.

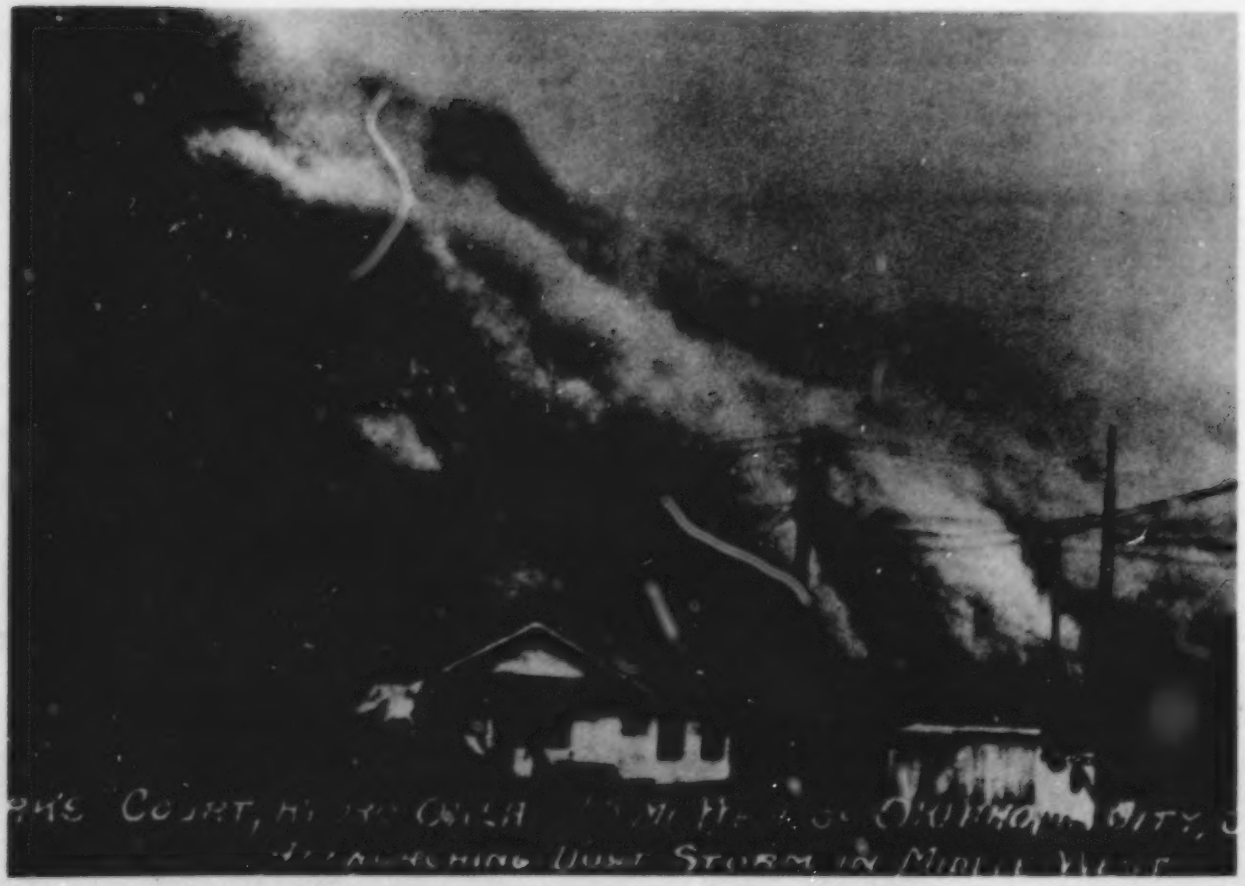
After Governor Trapp left office, Henry Johnston became Governor. Johnston was important in the Constitutional Convention, and had many friends throughout the state. However, in the state House were four men who were not his friends. The "Four Horsemen," as they were called, opposed Governor Johnston, and, with the aid of Republican members of the House and Senate, impeached and removed Johnston on the charge of general incompetency.

Dust Bowl and Depression

Just as Martin Trapp before him, William Holloway, Johnston's successor, was faced with a hostile Legislature. However, Holloway, a former State Senator, was able to have laws passed that kept Oklahoma from going bankrupt in the Great Depression that began soon after he took office.

Farmers and miners had been affected by post-war problems after World War I, while most Oklahomans enjoyed prosperous times during the "Roaring Twenties." However, when the Stock Market crashed in 1929, many Oklahomans were poverty-stricken. Soup kitchens were set up for those who did not have jobs and could not afford to feed their families. While people were lining the streets waiting for bread and soup, oil producers were producing more and more. Oil production reached an all-time high in 1930. However, there was over-production of oil, and prices were as low as 15 cents a barrel.

To fight the depression in Oklahoma, the voters elected a well-known politician from territorial and early statehood days, William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray. Governor Murray felt that Oklahoma needed strong leadership to halt the Depression. As Governor, Murray ended oil overproduction by declaring martial law in the oil fields to stop all production. By the end of his term oil had again reached a price of $1 a barrel. He also used the National Guard in his dispute with Texas about bridges across the Red River. Governor Murray also



Dust storms like this one were common occurrences in the time of the Dust Bowl.

reduced state spending, increased tax revenues by creating a state sales tax, and was able to put the state budget on better footing. However, Murray was not able to help Oklahomans recover from the Depression.

Murray's opposition to the New Deal reforms of President Franklin Roosevelt prevented Oklahoma from receiving federal help. Murray's successor, Ernest Marland, an oilman from Ponca City, supported Roosevelt, and Oklahoma was aided by New Deal programs. Farmers began to recover from the Dust Bowl. Tons of top soil had been blown off lands by strong winds and drought killed all crops. With federal help, farmers were able to last through the drought, and wet weather returned during the late 1930s. Industries in the state also recovered with federal assistance.

The New Deal reforms soon began to be opposed by many Oklahomans, who felt that too many changes were being made. Led by Governor Leon Phillips, Marland's successor, Oklahoma politicians in Congress and in the state fought Roosevelt's programs. Pro-New Deal candidates were defeated in elections, with opponents being elected to Washington to fight the President's programs.

World War II

The Depression was almost over by the time World War II broke out in 1939. The United States again played the role of neutral until Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese in 1941. The battleship U. S. S. *Oklahoma* was one of the ships sunk in that attack, and Oklahomans took the attack personally. Many state residents joined the armed forces, fighting in the Navy, Marines, and Army. The famous 45th Infantry Division was made up mostly of Oklahomans, but men from other states also served in that unit. Many

Oklahomans served throughout the world in World War II. These Oklahomans are on New Guinea in the South Pacific (Photo courtesy of Bill Peavler).

Oklahomans reached high positions during the war. Patrick Hurley was an advisor in China against the Japanese. Raymond S. McClain became a Major General in the Army. Clarence Tinker, a full-blood Osage, was an Air Force hero.

Oklahomans did not only participate in the military. In the state many citizens aided the war effort by growing more food, working in war industries, and buying war bonds. Located within the state were many training bases, including Fort Sill and the Technical Training Center in Norman. Tinker Air Force Base was a major refitting base in the United States. Air training stations were established at Ponca City and Miami for British and Canadian pilots. Also, eight Prisoner of War camps were located in Oklahoma.

Promoting Oklahoma

When the war ended in 1945, Oklahomans again returned home to renew their lives. However, Oklahoma would be greatly changed by the war and its aftereffects. Many outsiders, who before the war had pictured the state as a dry, desolate place, had seen Oklahoma as a green, productive area. The post-war Governors sought to spread this new, better image across the country. Governors Kerr, Turner, Murray, and Gary promoted the state to the country, and also began improvements within the state to make life better and more attractive for new businesses. New roads were built, including the Turner Turnpike; laws encouraging businesses to locate in Oklahoma offered tax breaks; schools were improved; a Pardon and Parole Board was established; primary elections were reformed; and segregation laws were repealed.

Expanding Oklahoma

The hard work of Oklahoma boosters such as Kerr and Gary had good results. Industries began to relocate in Oklahoma, state businesses grew, and the population increased dramatically. Further reforms of Oklahoma's government included repeal of prohibition in 1959 and the establishment of the State Merit System in 1961. The Democratic Party of Oklahoma, however, received several setbacks in the middle 1960s. In 1962 Henry Bellmon was elected Governor of Oklahoma, the first Republican to hold that office. He was succeeded by Dewey Bartlett, another Republican. Bellmon and Bartlett, as well as Governors Edmondson, Hall, and Boren, continued the promotion of Oklahoma as a good place to live. The Department of Tourism and Recreation was created in 1972 in response to the increase of tourism in the state. State agencies were overhauled to provide increased services to the public, and education, always a problem in Oklahoma history, was constantly upgraded to put Oklahoma's schools even with the rest of the country.

Post-war Oklahoma City was the center of interest of many new businesses and industries brought into the state by the promotions of Oklahoma businessmen and politicians.

Seventy-Five Years as a State
Growing for the Future

Oklahoma has come a long way since the first land openings more than ninety years ago. The state has survived much, and has emerged as a growing part of the United States. The Diamond Jubilee celebration in 1982 has directed the attention of Oklahoma and the country to the accomplishments of the state and its people. Oklahomans have reason to be proud.

The state's economy is strong. Oil and agriculture are the keystones to the stability of Oklahoma, and increased industry and business strengthen the foundation of the state. The oil industry continues to be the major producer of wealth in the state. Exploration continues. Though reserves shrink, Oklahoma remains among the leaders in oil production in the United States. Agriculture, using improved techniques such as irrigation, continues to provide many Oklahomans with income. Although farm numbers have diminished, the size of farms has grown, and consolidated farms and grand-scale farm methods produce increased yields of wheat and other cash crops. Industrial growth in Oklahoma has continued, even when other sectors of the country have experienced recessions.

Seventy-five years of state history is merely a beginning for this great state. Far-sighted Oklahomans have built a strong foundation for the state, and Oklahomans can expect to reap the fruits of their labors for many years to come.

Downtown Tulsa is evidence of the booming business and industry of modern Oklahoma (Photo courtesy of Fred Marvel, Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation).

The Governors of Oklahoma

Territorial Governors

George Washington Steele, first territorial Governor of Oklahoma, was born in Fayette County, Indiana. He served as Governor from May 22, 1890, to October 18, 1891.

Robert Martin, acting Governor of Oklahoma Territory from November 8, 1891, to February 1, 1892, was originally from Pennsylvania, but moved to Oklahoma in 1889.

Abraham Jefferson Seay, from Amherst Court House, Virginia, served as territorial Governor from February 1, 1892, until May 7, 1893.

William Cary Renfrow, from Smithfield, North Carolina, territorial Governor of Oklahoma from May 7, 1893, until May 24, 1897, was the only Democratic territorial Governor.

Cassius McDonald Barnes, Governor of Oklahoma Territory from May 24, 1897, until May 12, 1901, was born in Livingston County, New York, and went to Guthrie in 1890 as registrar at the Federal Land Office there.

William Miller Jenkins, born in Alliance, Ohio, came to the Cherokee Outlet from Arkansas City, Kansas, in the Run of 1893. He served as acting Governor of Oklahoma Territory from May 12, 1901, until November 30, 1901.

William C. Grimes, acting Governor of Oklahoma Territory from November 30, 1901, until December 9, 1901, was born near Lexington, Ohio, and served as United States Marshall in Oklahoma prior to his appointment.

Thompson Benton Ferguson, born near Des Moines, Iowa, was Governor of Oklahoma Territory from December 9, 1901, until January 13, 1906. He lived in Watonga, where he established a newspaper.

Frank Frantz, Territorial Governor, served from January 13, 1906, until November 16, 1907, Statehood Day. He served with the "Rough Riders" in the Spanish-American War, and lived in Medford and Enid.

State Governors

Charles Nathaniel Haskell was Governor of Oklahoma from 1907 to 1911. The four years of his term of office were among the most important in the history of the State. He was born in Ohio, and moved to Muskogee in 1901. He was influential in both the Sequoyah and Oklahoma Constitutional Conventions.

Lee Cruce succeeded Haskell as Governor in 1911. Born near Marion, Kentucky, he moved to Ardmore where he established a bank.

Robert Lee Williams was born near Brundridge, Alabama, and moved to Atoka and later to Durant in the Indian Territory. He attended the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, served as the first chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and was elected Governor in 1915. During his term the United States fought in World War I, and Oklahoma participated greatly in the war effort. Also during Williams' term, the Capitol Building was completed. After he left office in 1915, Williams was appointed federal judge.

James Brooks Ayers Robertson was from Iowa. He moved to Oklahoma in 1893, living near Chandler. He served as Governor from 1919 to 1923.

John Calloway ("Jack") Walton, of Oklahoma City, was Governor of Oklahoma from January 8 to November 19, 1923, the shortest term of an elected governor in state history. Walton was impeached and removed by the State Legislature because of his use of martial law in his "war" on the Ku Klux Klan.

Martin Edwin Trapp, elected Lt. Governor of Oklahoma in 1911, served in that office until he succeeded Walton as Governor on November 19, 1923. He served as Governor until 1927. During his term of office more miles of highway were built than during the terms of the four governors that preceeded him. He was from Guthrie.

Henry Simpson Johnston, of Perry, was Governor of Oklahoma from January, 1927, until March 10, 1929, when he was impeached and removed as Governor by the State Senate. He was the second governor to be removed from office.

William Judson Holloway, elected Lt. Governor in 1927, succeeded Johnston as Governor on March 20, 1929. He was born in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and moved to Hugo in 1912.

William Henry "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, Governor of Oklahoma from 1931 until 1935, was born near Collinsville, Texas. He moved to Tishomingo, married the daughter of the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, and became attorney for that tribe. He was President of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention in 1906, the first Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and later was elected Governor.

Ernest Whitworth Marland, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was elected Governor in 1935. An oilman, he had made and lost several fortunes before being elected Governor. During his term much was done to bring Oklahoma out of the depths of the Great Depression.

Leon Chase Phillips was Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives before being elected Governor in 1939. He was born in Worth County, Missouri, and moved to Oklahoma City and then to Okemah.

Robert Samuel Kerr was the first native-born Oklahoman to become Governor. He was born near Ada, established an oil company with partner Dean McGee, and was elected Governor in 1943. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1948, and served in that post until his death in 1963.

Roy Joseph Turner, from Lincoln County, was elected Governor in 1947. During his administration toll roads were begun, especially the Turner Turnpike from Tulsa to Oklahoma City.

Johnston Murray, the only son of a Governor to be elected Governor, was born at Emet in the mansion of the Chickasaw Governor. His father, William H. Murray, was Governor from 1931 to 1935, and Johnston Murray was elected Governor in 1951. He served until 1955.

Raymond Dancel Gary was the first Governor to be born in the State of Oklahoma. He was born near Mad... Elected Governor in 1955, Gary saw the desegregation of Oklahoma's schools and the building of many new highways.

James Howard Edmondson was Governor of Oklahoma from 1959 until January 6, 1963, when he resigned the office of Governor and was appointed United States Senator. He was responsible for the passage of the repeal of prohibition and the establishment of the State Merit System.

Henry Louis Bellmon was the first Republican Governor of Oklahoma in 1963. Born in Tonkawa, he moved to Billings. During World War II he served in the Marines, where he was decorated for bravery, and served one term in the State House before being elected Governor. He served until 1967. Later he was elected to the U. S. Senate. He served two terms before retiring in 1980.

Dewey Follett Bartlett succeeded Bellmon in 1967. Born at Marietta, Ohio, Bartlett moved to Tulsa, where he was a State Senator before his election as Governor. During his term of office the State Supreme Court was reformed and a constitutional measure was passed allowing the Governor to succeed himself. After leaving office in 1971, he won election as U. S. Senator in 1972, serving until 1978.

David Hall was born in Oklahoma City. He moved to Tulsa, was Tulsa District Attorney, and in 1971 won the Governor's race in the closest election in the state's history. The election was decided by less than 3,000 votes out of more that 700,000 cast.

David Lyle Boren was the son of Lyle Boren, long-time U. S. Congressman from Oklahoma. He was elected Governor in 1975, and was elected U. S. Senator in 1978. He resigned as Governor on January 3, 1979, to take office as senator.

George Patterson Nigh was Lt. Governor of Oklahoma from 1959 until 1963, and then from 1967 until 1979. He won election as Governor in his own right in 1978 after completing the terms of office of two previous Governors, Edmondson and Boren. Born in McAlester, he also had served in the State Legislature.

HOW THE COUNTIES GOT THEIR NAMES

Adair County is named after an important Cherokee family. The county seat is **Stilwell.**
Alfalfa County is one of two counties named after William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray. The county seat is **Cherokee.**
Atoka County is named after Captain Atoka, a Choctaw ball player. The county seat is **Atoka.**
Beaver County is named after the Beaver (North Canadian) River. The county seat is **Beaver.**
Beckham County is named after Gov. J. C. Beckham of Kentucky. The county seat is **Sayre.**
Blaine County is named after James G. Blaine, U. S. Secretary of State. The county seat is **Watonga.**
Bryan County is named after William Jennings Bryan, U. S. Secretary of State. The county seat is **Durant.**
Caddo County is named after the Caddo Indian tribe, a word that means "chief." The county seat is **Anadarko.**
Canadian County is named after the (South) Canadian River. The county seat is **El Reno.**
Carter County is named after an important family in the area. The county seat is **Ardmore.**
Cherokee County is named after the Cherokee Nation. The county seat is **Tahlequah.**
Choctaw County is named after the Choctaw Nation. The county seat is **Hugo.**
Cimarron County is named after the Cimarron River. The county seat is **Boise City.**
Cleveland County is named after Pres. Grover Cleveland. The county seat is **Norman.**
Coal County is named after the county's most important mineral. The county seat is **Coalgate.**
Comanche County is named after the Comanche Indians. The county seat is **Lawton.**
Cotton County is named after county's chief crop. The county seat is **Walters.**
Craig County is named after Granville Craig, an important Cherokee. The county seat is **Vinita.**
Creek County is named after the Creek N. The county seat is **Sapulpa.**
Custer County is named after Gen. George A. Custer, Indian War hero. The county seat is **Arapaho.**
Delaware County is named after the Delaware Indians. The county seat is **Jay.**
Dewey County is named after Admiral George Dewey, a Spanish-American War hero. The county seat is **Taloga.**
Ellis County is named after Albert H. Ellis, vice president of the Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Arnett.**
Garfield County is named after Pres. James A. Garfield. The county seat is **Enid.**
Garvin County is named after Samuel J. Garvin, an important Chickasaw. The county seat is **Pauls Valley.**
Grady County is named after Henry W. Grady, editor of an Atlanta, Ga., newspaper. The county seat is **Chickasha.**
Grant County is named after Pres. U. S. Grant. The county seat is **Medford.**
Greer County is named after John A. Greer, Lt. Gov. of Texas. The county seat is **Mangum.**
Harmon County is named after Judson C. Harmon, U. S. Secretary of State. The county seat is **Hollis.**
Harper County is named after Oscar G. Harper, a clerk at the Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Buffalo.**
Haskell County is named after Charles N. Haskell, first Governor of Oklahoma. The county seat is **Stigler.**
Hughes County is named after W. C. Hughes, member of Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Holdenville.**
Jackson County is named after Pres. Andrew Jackson and Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, a Civil War hero. The county seat is **Altus.**
Jefferson County is named after Pres. Thomas Jefferson. The county seat is **Waurika.**
Johnston County is named after Douglas H. Johnston, governor of the Chickasaw Nation. The county seat is **Tishomingo.**
Kay County was originally "K" County in Oklahoma Territory. It is only county to keep its territorial name. The county seat is **Newkirk.**
Kingfisher County is named after King Fisher, an early settler. The county seat is **Kingfisher.**

Oklahoma Counties, 1981. From John W. Morris and Edwin C. McReynolds, *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*, map 60.

Kiowa County is named after the Kiowa Indians. The county seat is **Hobart.**
Latimer County is named after James S. Latimer, a member of the Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Wilburton.**
LeFlore County is named after an important Choctaw family. The county seat is **Poteau.**
Lincoln County is named after Pres. Abraham Lincoln. The county seat is **Chandler.**
Logan County is named after Sen. John A. Logan of Illinois. The county seat is **Guthrie.**
Love County is named after an important Chickasaw family. The county seat is **Marietta.**
McClain County is named after Charles M. McClain, a member of Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Purcell.**
McCurtain County is named after an important Choctaw family. The county seat is **Idabel.**
McIntosh County is named after an important Creek family. The county seat is **Eufala.**
Major County is named after John C. Major, a member of Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Fairview.**
Marshall County is named after the mother of George A. Henshaw, a member of Constitutional Convention. The county seat is **Madill.**
Mayes County is named after Samuel H. Mayes, a Cherokee chief. The county seat is **Pryor.**
Murray County is named after William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, president of Constitutional Convention and later Governor of Oklahoma. The county seat is **Sulphur.**
Muskogee County is named after the Muscogee, or Creek, Nation. The county seat is **Muskogee.**
Noble County is named after John W. Noble, U. S. Secretary of the Interior. The county seat is **Perry.**
Nowata County is named after the Delaware word meaning "welcome." The county seat is **Nowata.**
Okfuskee County is named after a Creek town in Alabama. The county seat is **Okemah.**
Oklahoma County is named after Oklahoma Territory and the major city in the county. The county seat is **Oklahoma City.**
Okmulgee County is named after a Creek word meaning "bailing water." The county seat is **Okmulgee.**
Osage County is named after the Osage Indians. The county seat is **Pawhuska.**
Ottawa County is named after the Ottawa Indians. The county seat is **Miami.**
Pawnee County is named after the Pawnee Indians. The county seat is **Pawnee.**
Payne County is named after David L. Payne, a Boomer leader. The county seat is **Stillwater.**
Pittsburgh County is named after Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The county seat is **McAlester.**
Pontotoc County is named after a Chickasaw word meaning "cattails growing on the prairie." The county seat is **Ada.**
Pottawatomie County is named after the Pottawatomi Indians. The county seat is **Shawnee.**
Pushmataha County is named after a famous Choctaw chief at the time of "Trail of Tears." The county seat is **Antlers.**
Roger Mills County is named after Roger Q. Mills, U. S. Congressman. The county seat is **Cheyenne.**
Rogers County is named after Clem V. Rogers, a member of Constitutional Convention and the father of Will Rogers. The county seat is **Claremore.**
Seminole County is named after the Seminole Nation. The county seat is **Wewoka.**
Sequoyah County is named after the famous Cherokee who invented Cherokee syllabary. The county seat is **Sallisaw.**
Stephens County is named after John H. Stephens, a Congressman from Texas. The county seat is **Duncan.**
Texas County is named after the State of Texas. The county seat is **Guymon.**
Tillman County is named after Sen. Benjamin W. Tillman of South Carolina. The county seat is **Frederick.**
Tulsa County is named after the City of Tulsa. The county seat is **Tulsa.**
Wagoner County is named after a railroad dispatcher of the same name. The county seat is **Wagoner.**
Washington County is named after George Washington, first President. The county seat is **Bartlesville.**
Washita County is named after the Washita River. The county seat is **Cordell.**
Woods County is named after Sam Wood, a Kansas politician. The county seat is **Alva.**
Woodward County is named after the county seat. The county seat is **Woodward.**

STATE GOVERNMENT

Introduction

The government of Oklahoma is modeled after the United States government. The powers of government are divided among three branches. These branches are the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The Legislative Branch--the State House of Representatives and the State Senate--make the laws. The Executive Branch--the governor and his appointees as well as other elected officials--enforces the laws. The Judicial Branch--the state courts--judge the laws and law breakers.

The Legislative Branch

The Oklahoma House of Representatives has 101 members. These menbers are elected from districts drawn according to population. The House is governed by an elected Speaker, usually the member of the majority party who has the longest experience. The House writes laws on state spending.

The Oklahoma Senate has 48 members. These members are also elected from districts drawn according to population. The Senate is presided over by the Lt. Governor. There is also an elected President *Pro Tempore*, who presides over the Senate in the Lt. Governor's absence.

Bills are written by individual lawmakers or by groups of lawmakers. They are then sent to committees. These committees are set up to to review and change the bills. The committees then send the bills to the entire House or Senate, who then change the bills and pass or defeat them. If the bill passes one house, it is sent to the other house to be considered. If the bill passes both houses, it goes to the governor to be signed or vetoed.

Both houses are made up of members of different political parties. The party with the most members elects the Speaker and President Pro Tempore, who name members to the different committees.

Members of the House of Representatives are elected to terms of two years. Senators are elected to four-year terms. They may be reelected.

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is the Governor, other elected officers, and the appointments made by the Governor. The Governor, other officers, and appointees enforce the laws passed by the State Legislature. The Executive Branch has a number of state agencies. Each agency has a responsibility to carry out a certain part of the state's business.

Elective Postitions

The Governor:

The Governor is the head of the government and is responsible for its activities. One of the most important of the Governor's powers is the appointment of people to offices and positions. These appointees head many of the agencies of state government. Another important role is in the making of laws. When a bill is passed by the legislature, the Governor may either sign or veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed, it is returned to the Legislature, who can then pass the law over the veto of the Governor. This takes a two-thirds majority of both houses. If the Governor signs the bill, it becomes the law of the state and the executive branch then enforces it that law.

The Governor is elected to a four-year term and may be reelected once.

The Lieutenant Governor:

The Lieutenant Governor presides over the State Senate. If the Governor is absent from the state, the Lt. Governor acts as Governor until his return. If the Governor leaves office before the end of the elected term of office, the Lt. Governor becomes Governor for the remainder of the term. The Lt. Governor also promotes the state to outside groups and organizations, attempting to increase industry and tourism in Oklahoma.

The Lt. Governor is elected for four years and may be reelected.

The State Auditor and Inspector:

The Auditor and Inspector sees that the money received by the state is spent in the way required by law. The Auditor has the power to investigate state agencies to determine the financial condition of that agency. If laws are being broken, the Auditor refers charges to the Attorney General.

The Auditor and Inspector also inspects and audits county, city, and town governments, and checks financial records of charities and trusts in the state.

The Auditor and Inspector is elected for a four-year term and may be reelected.

The Attorney General:

The Attorney General is the chief attorney for the state. The Attorney General may issue rulings on state laws that have been questioned by state agencies and the Legislature. These rulings have the force of law until overturned by the courts.

The Attorney General is elected for a four-year term and may be reelected.

State Treasurer:

The State Treasurer keeps funds received by the state from the collection of taxes and fees. He must invest this money in banks around the state. The Treasurer also pays state government bonds and interest on the debt of the state.

The Treasurer serves for four years, and may be reelected.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction:

The State Superintendent serves as the head of the State Department of Education, which distributes money appropriated by the Legislature to local school districts, as well as assists school districts in selecting curriculum. The Superintendent also supervises federal grants and assistance to local schools.

The Superintendent is elected for a four-year term, and may be reelected. The Superintendent also must have earned a Master's Degree in School Administration.

State Insurance Commissioner:

The State Insurance Commissioner directs the State Insurance Department, which regulates the insurance industry in the state.

Corporation Commission:

Three members of the Corporation Commission are elected for terms of six years. No two offices of the Corporation Commission are up for reelection for full terms at the same time. The Corporation Commission regulates corporations in the state that affect the public, such as utilities and transportation companies. Rate increases by utilities must be passed by the Commission.

Appointive Positions

Secretary of State:

This office was an elective office until 1979. The Secretary of State keeps records of the official acts of the State of Oklahoma. The Secretary also files petitions and orders for the initiative and referendum. The Secretary also serves as the custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma, which must be placed on all official acts of the Governor, except laws.

Chief Mine Inspector:

The Chief Mine Inspector must maintain safety regulations concerning mining in the state. Enforcement is carried out through inspections and imposing fines. The Chief Mine Inspector also directs mine rescue operations in the case of mining disasters.

Commissioner of Labor:

The Commissioner supervises the activities of the Department of Labor, including the regulation of employment standards, wages, and safety.

District Attorneys:

Twenty-five district attorneys are appointed to the district courts to prosecute criminal cases for the people of Oklahoma. Each district attorney is assisted by a number of assistants and deputies according to the amount of court cases in that district.

Major State Agencies and Departments

Board of Public Affairs:

Created in 1909, the Board of Public Affairs supports state agencies with the following services: Central Purchasing; Engineering & Architectural Services; Motor Pool; Central Printing; Communication Coordination; Surplus Property; Management of Inventory and Property; and Central Information office for State Lands. Other divisions relating primarily to the State Capitol Complex are the Physical Plant and the Capitol Police.

The Board of Public Affairs is supervised by three members appointed by the Governor.

Department of Agriculture:

This department is responsible for matters that pertain to the animal industry and quarantine. It is also responsible for checking the quality of dairy and poultry products for consumers with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture is administered by five members appointed by the Governor.

Department of Corrections:

This department has the duty to maintain the correctional institutions (the State Penitentiary, reformatories, and pre-release centers), and to provide rehabilitation programs for inmates and released convicts. Pardon and parole regulation are also duties of this department.

The Department of Corrections is guided by seven members who are appointed by the Governor on a bi-partisan basis.

Employment Security Commission:

The Employment Security Commission maintains thirty-nine Oklahoma State Employment Service offices throughout the state, acting as a placement service that brings jobs and employees together. Also, unemployment benefits are determined by the commission.

The Commission is supervised by five members appointed by the Governor.

Grand River Dam Authority:

Established in 1935 as a public corporation and state agency, the Authority stores and controls the water of the Grand River and its tributaries for the generation of electricity, irrigation, reclamation of land, and the development and conservation of natural resources of a large part of northeastern Oklahoma.

The Authority is administered by seven members appointed by the Governor.

Department of Health:

The major role of the Department is the prevention and control of communicable, contagious, or infectious diseases, and to advise local governments on all phases of health, sanitation, and safety.

Nine members are appointed by the Governor to an advisory committee and approved by the Senate.

Oklahoma Historical Society:

The Oklahoma Historical Society is a state agency and a private membership organization. It is responsible for preserving and promoting the history of the state through maintenance of museums, historic sites, a research library, and numerous publications.

The Society is governed by a twenty-five member Board of Directors, twelve of whom are appointed by the Governor and thirteen elected by the membership.

Department of Human Services:

The Department maintains offices in each of the 77 counties. It has 93 rehabilitative services field offices and 13 visual services offices. The largest state agency, it employs more than 10,000 staff members.

The Department maintains programs for the benefit of the welfare of the people of Oklahoma, including financial assistance programs for dependent children, medical facilities, adoption of children, aid and assistance for the elderly, and many other related services.

Nine members appointed by the Governor supervise the Department of Human Services activities.

Department of Industrial Development:

The Department encourages industries and businesses to locate in Oklahoma. It also assists communities within the state to develop programs that will make them attractive for potential businesses.

The Department of Industrial Development is supervised by seven members appointed by the Governor, who serves as chairman of the Commission.

Department of Libraries:

The Department provides library service to state officials and coordinates library services statewide. State Archives, U. S. Government Documents, an inter-library loan system, a film and audio-visual collection, and maintaining an extensive general and legal library make up the Department's services.

A seven-member Library Committee, appointed by the Governor on a staggered basis and approved by the Senate, directs the activities of the Department.

Department of Mental Health

The main objective of this Department is to provide mental health services to the people of Oklahoma to lessen or prevent hospitalization. The Department also provides for convenient outpatient care, and continues this care, if necessary. Three mental hospitals, three mental health centers, and 11 community health clinics are operated by the Department.

The Department of Mental Health is advised by a seven member board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Oklahoma Military Department:

This Department acts as an administrative agency for the Oklahoma National Guard and other military organizations.

The Governor, as Commander-in-Chief of state military forces, is assisted by the Adjutant General, who is the executive and administrative officer of the Guard. The Adjutant General is appointed by the Governor. The Oklahoma National Guard consists of the 45th Infantry Brigade and support units. The Oklahoma Air National Guard has two units, one each in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Department of Public Safety:

The department is a multi-purpose safety and law enforcement agency. It maintains the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, licenses drivers, patrols Oklahomas parks and lakes, and administers the state vehicle inspection laws.

The Commissioner of Public Safety is appointed by the Governor.

Oklahoma Tax Commission:

The Commission adminsters and enforces the state's tax laws. The Commission also collects the majority of state taxes, fees, levies, licenses. Money earmarked to various state agencies and to local government agencies are also distributed by the Commission.

Three members who administer the Commission are appointed by the Governor.

Tourism and Recreation Department:

Created in 1972, this Department is responsible for the promotion of tourism and recreation within the state, advertisement of recreational facilities to out-of-state audiences, and maintenance of parks and recreation areas within the state. It also maintains the information centers located through the state. The Department publishes *Oklahoma Today*.

The Governor appoints seven members to the Tourism and Recreation Commission. The Lt. Governor serves as chairman.

Department of Transportation:

This Department is responsible for more than 12,000 miles of state and national highways in Oklahoma. Also under the control of this department is the Railroad Maintenance Authority, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission and various port authorities located on the Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System.

Eight members are appointed by the Governor to the Transportation Commission.

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority:

Oklahoma's first turnpike was begun in 1947 during the administration of Roy Turner. The Authority administers financing, construction, and maintenance of the state's six turnpikes.

Six members of the Turnpike Authority are appointed by the Governor with confirmation from the Senate.

Department of Wildlife Conservation:

This Department regulates hunters and fishermen within the state, maintains wildlife reserves, and operates state fish hatcheries within the state. A Research Laboratory, four hatcheries, and 700,000 acres of wildlife reserves also are maintained.

Eight members are appointed by the Governor to the State Wildlife Commission.

Judicial Branch

The state Judicial Branch reviews cases of law in the state courts. The courts rule on the legality of laws and the guilt or innocence of those brought on trial. The judicial branch is divided into major two areas: criminal and civil.

Criminal courts hear cases concerning the breaking of state laws. Laws are classified as felonies and misdemeanors. Evidence is presented by the prosecuting attorneys. The guilt or innocence of the accused is determined. If a person is convicted of a crime, that person may appeal the decision. The Oklahoma Supreme Court decides to either hear the appeal or to send the case to the Court of Criminal Appeals. The Court of Criminal Appeals then rules on the appeal. If the ruling of the Court of Criminal Appeals is appealed, the Supreme Court must rule on the appeal.

Civil courts hear lawsuits concerning violations of personal and property rights. If a person feels that their rights have been violated, they may sue the person or persons that wronged them. The civil court hears evidence presented by the plaintiff and the defendant. The court decides whether to award the plaintiff with damages or rules in favor of the defendant. If either of the persons involved appeals the decision, the appeal goes to the Court of Appeals. This court hears the appeal and makes a ruling. If the ruling of the Court of Appeals is appealed, the case goes to the Supreme Court for a ruling.

The Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court consists of nine justices appointed by the Governor. Justices hold office for six years. At the end of their terms, the Justices run for retention. The people of Oklahoma vote whether to keep or replace the Justice. These elections are non-partisan and non-competitive.

The Chief Justice is the presiding officer of the Supreme Court, and is assisted by an administrator of the courts. The Supreme Court directs which court will review appeals.

Court of Criminal Appeals:

The Court of Criminal Appeals consists of three members who are appointed by the Governor. They run for retention on a non-partisan, non-competitive basis for terms of six years. The court rules on appeals from criminal cases of district and municipal courts. Cases appealed from the Court of Criminal Appeals are reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Court of Appeals:

Created in 1968, this court hears appeals of civil cases. Six judges are elected by the people and hold six-year terms. They run for retention at the end of their terms in non-partisan elections.

District Courts:

Twenty-five districts have been created in Oklahoma to hear cases within the state. Each district has a number of judges who sit on both criminal and civil cases. Judges are elected in non-partisan elections by the people of their district, and serve terms of six years.

The district court judges are assisted by associate district court judges who are also elected. The Governor appoints special judges in cases of emergency or extreme need.

Court on the Judiciary:

This court sits in judgement on matters concerning the activities of judges. It may remove judges from their offices if evidence of certain charges are proven.

The nineteen members of this court are appointed by the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Oklahoma Bar Association (the organization of lawyers in the State), and the Secretary of State.

Judicial Nomination Commission:

This commission nominates a slate of persons for positions in the courts. The Governor does not have to act on their recommendations, but the commission does have an affect on his appointments.

Thirteen members make up this commission. Six are appointed by the Governor, six by the Oklahoma Bar Association, and one is an at-large member.

Worker's Compensation Court:

Seven judges rule on workmen's compensation claims. They award claims to injured workmen if necessary. The seven judges are appointed by the Governor.

The Role of the Voter in State Government:

The voters of Oklahoma have an important voice in the government of the state. The voters elect members of the Legislature, the Governor, and other state officials. They also have a voice in the retention of judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals. The voters elect judges to the Court of Appeals and the District Courts. They can also make laws without legislative action. This is called the Initiative.

The Initiative process is somewhat complicated. A person or organization registers a petition with the Secretary of State. This petition may amend the State Constitution or establish a new law. After a hearing the petition is circulated among the people of Oklahoma. Only registered voters of Oklahoma may sign a petition. Eight percent of the voters who voted in the election contest with the most votes in the last election must sign a petition to establish a law. Fifteen percent must sign a petition that will amend the Constitution. The petition is then returned to the Secretary of State. The Secretary gives the petition to the Governor, who must put the question to a vote of the people. The petition is voted on either in a special election called for that purpose or in the next regular election. If the question passes, it becomes law.

Another method in which the people have a voice on making laws is known as the Referendum. Laws passed by the Legislature may be changed by the people the same way that laws are made using the Initiative.

Most Initiative and Referendum questions are amendments or changes to the Oklahoma Constitution. More than two hundred petitions or referendums have been voted on since 1907. Less than half have passed.

STATE SEAL

The State Seal has in the middle a five-pointed white star. The point of the star points up. In the middle of the star is the seal of the Territory of Oklahoma. The words *Labor Omnia Vincit* (Labor conquers all) is the state motto.

The top left point of the star has the seal of the Cherokee Nation. It is a seven-pointed star surrounded by oak leaves.

The point at the top has the seal of the Chickasaw Nation. It is an Indian warrior standing up with bow and shield.

The lower left point has the seal of the Creek Nation. It is a sheaf of wheat and a plow.

The upper right point has the symbol of the Choctaw Nation. It is a tomahawk, a bow, and three crossed arrows.

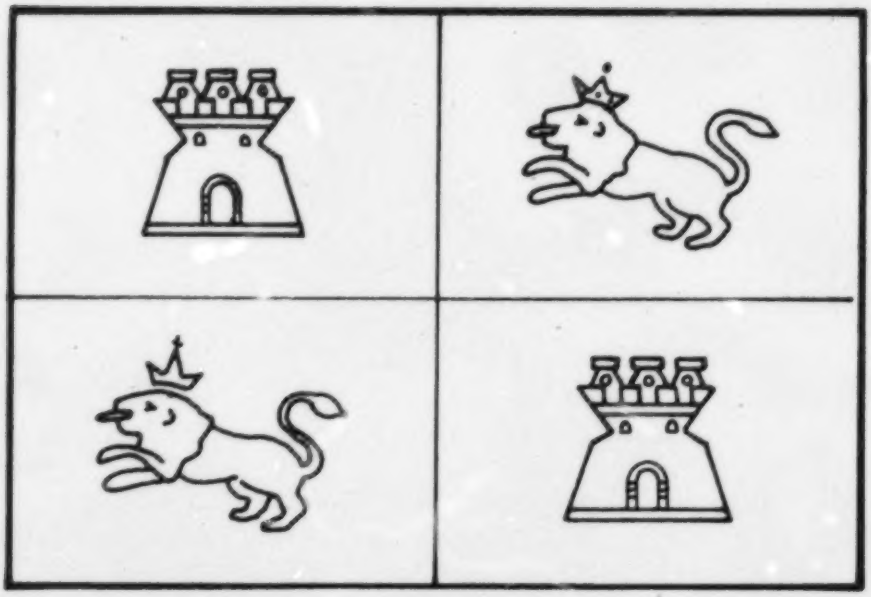
The lower right point has the seal of the Seminole Nation. It has an Indians in a canoe.

Around the middle star are 45 stars. They are in groups of nine. These stars represent the other states in the United States at the time when Oklahoma became a state.

In a band around the seal is "Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma 1907."

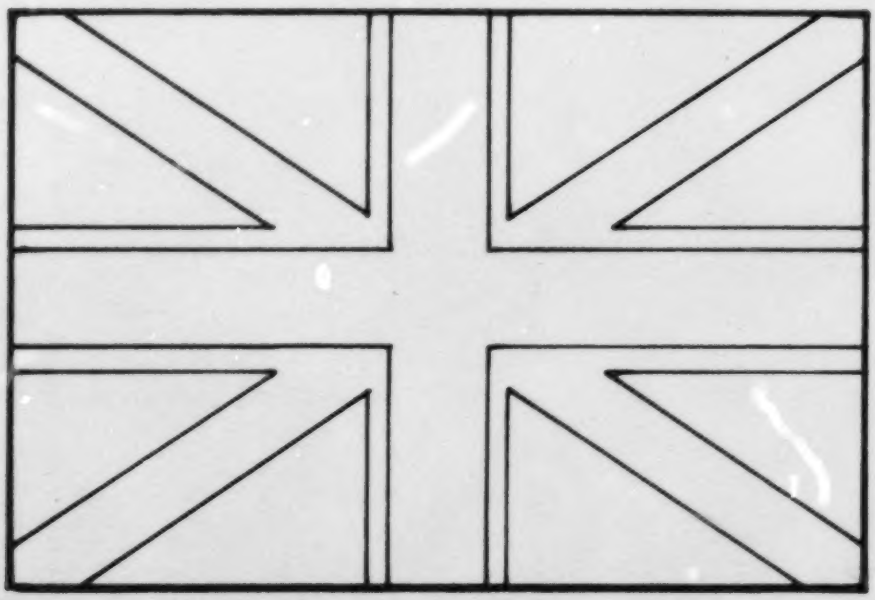
The State Seal of Oklahoma symbolizes Oklahoma's heritage. It is colored as follows: The great circle is gold. The letters "Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma, 1907," are colored navy blue. The fields around the groups of stars are also navy blue. The stars are white. The large central star is white outlined in gold.

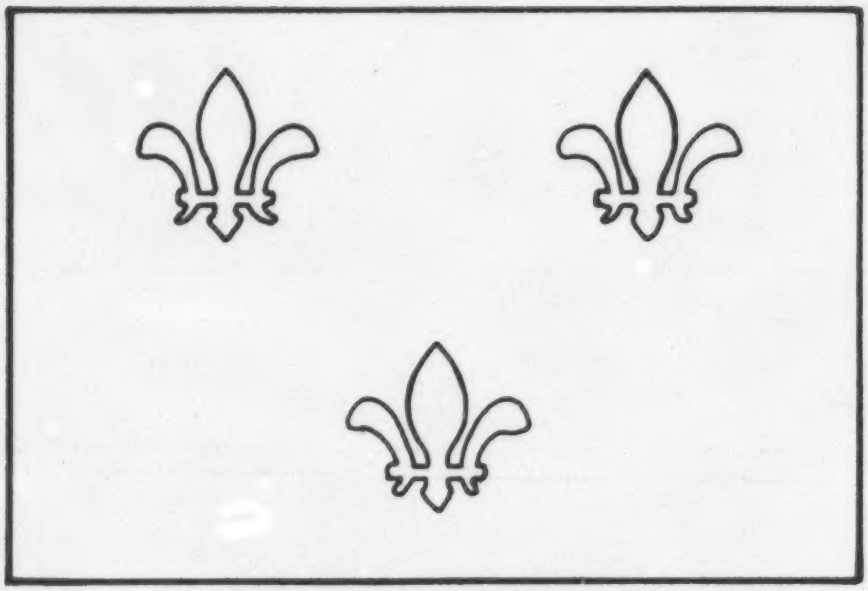
The figures within the star are colored as follows: The figure in the topmost point is green and brown. The star in the upper lefthand point is copper with a green wreath around it. The plow and sheaf of wheat in the lower lefthand point is yellow. The Indian in the canoe in the lower righthand point is brown. The bow, arrows and pipe in the upper righthand point are brown. The figures in the center are, on the left, gray, in the middle, white, and on the right, brown. The wreaths surrounding the center are green.



First Flag: *The Royal Standard of Spain* was brought to Oklahoma by Coronado in 1541. This flag is divided into four parts. The four parts are red and white. On the red part is a gold castle. This was the symbol of the kingdom of Castille. On the white part is a red lion. This was the symbol of the kingdom of Leon.

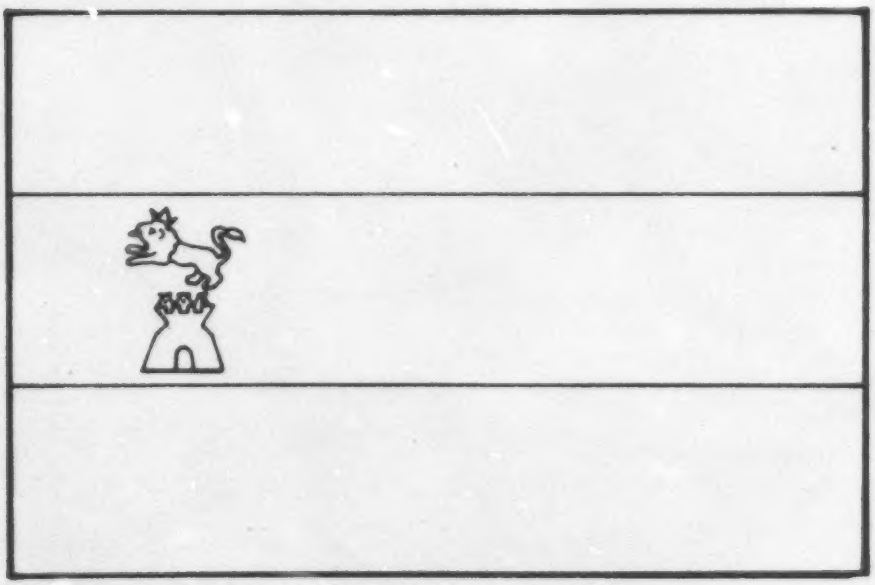
Second Flag: Oklahoma was claimed by Great Britain in 1663. The King of Great Britain was Charles II. He gave a wide strip of land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean to his friends. This wide strip was known as Carolina. It included nearly all of Oklahoma. The *"Great Union"* flag was the flag of Great Britain then. It showed a blue field with the white cross of St. Andrew and the red cross of St. George.

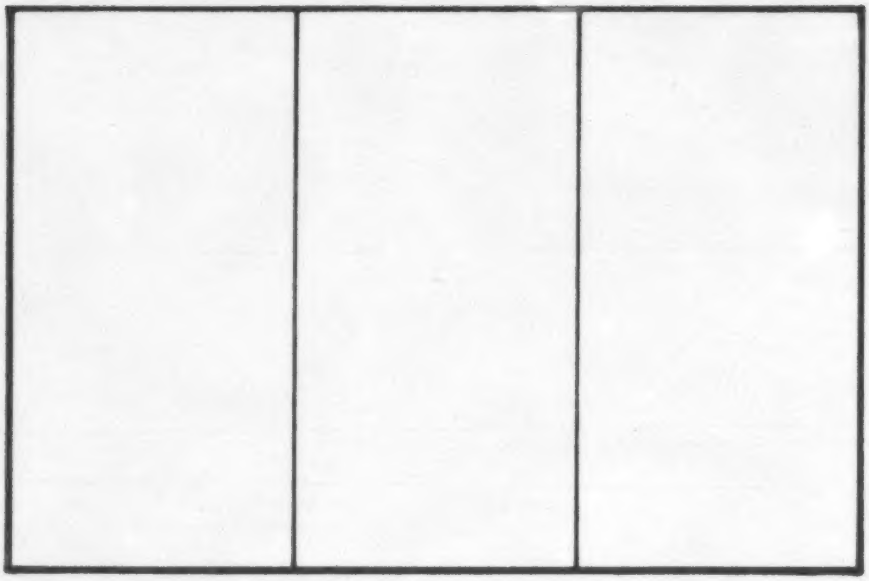




Third Flag: *The Royal Flag of France* was brought to Oklahoma by Benard de La Harpe and Charles Dutisne in 1719. France claimed Oklahoma as early as 1683. The French explorer La Salle claimed the Mississippi River for the French King Louis XIV. The flag was white with many golden flowers on it.

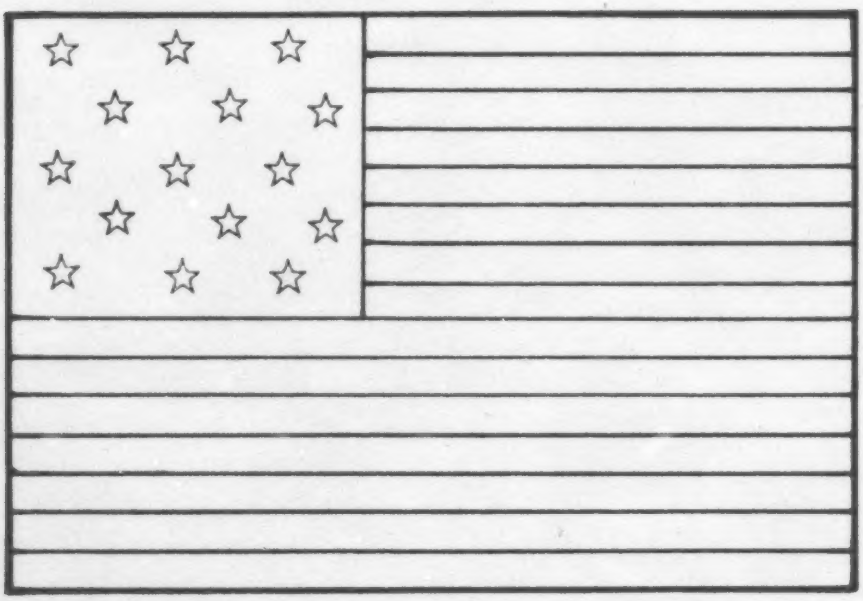
Fourth Flag: In 1763 the France gave their claim to Spain. *The Standard of the Empire of Spain* flew then. The flag had three stripes. On top was a red stripe. In the middle was a gold stripe. On the bottom was a red stripe. On the gold stripe were the lion and the castle that were on the First Flag.

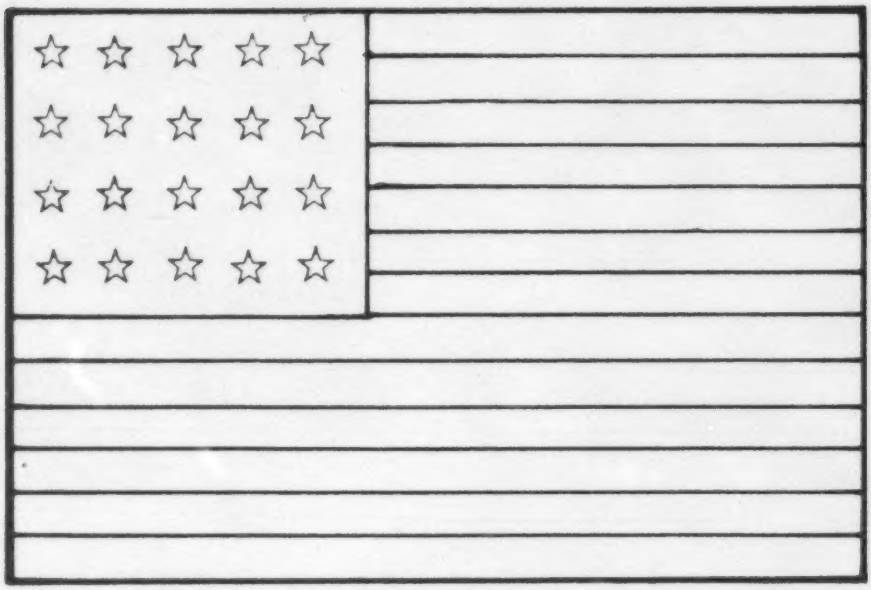




Fifth Flag: In 1800 Spain gave France Louisiana back. *The Standard of the French Republic* then flew over the French lands, including Oklahoma. The flag had three stripes. Nearest the flag pole was a red stripe. In the middle was a white stripe. On the end was a blue stripe.

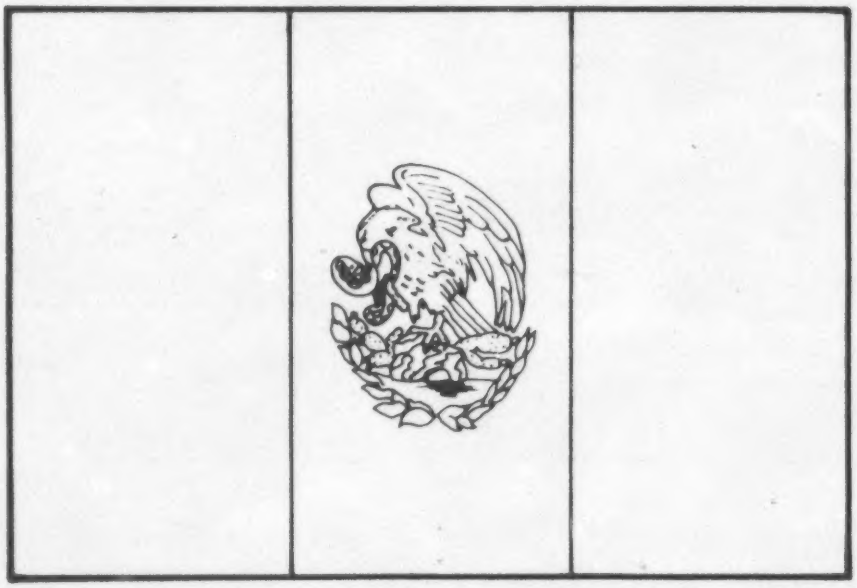
Sixth Flag: The United States bought Louisiana from France. Oklahoma then became part of the United States. *The United States Flag* then had fifteen white stars on a blue corner. There were fifteen stripes. Each state in the United States had a star and a stripe on the flag then.

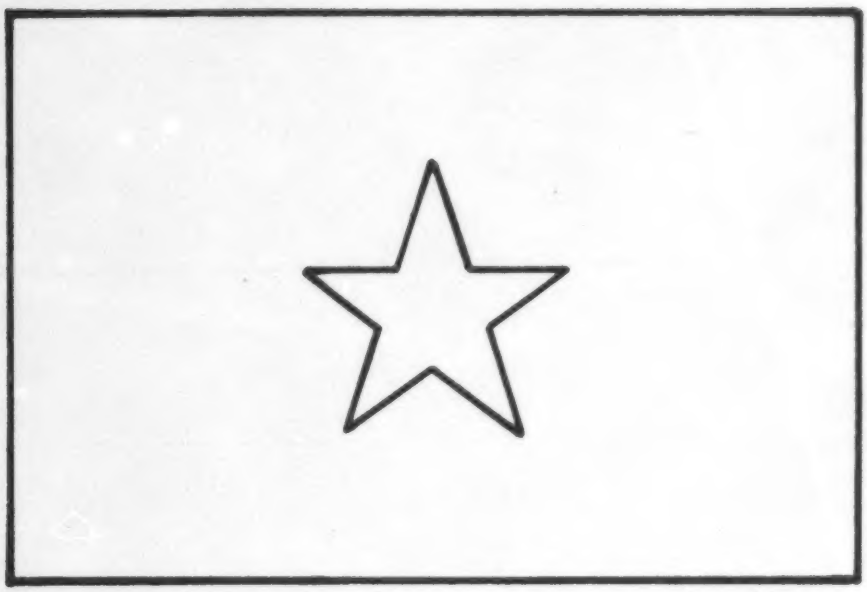




Seventh Flag: *The United States Flag* changed many times. The earlier flag had too many stripes on it. A new law was made so that there would only be thirteen stripes. Each state would have one star. Every time a new state was made a star was added to the flag. The star was added on the Fourth of July. When the flag was changed there were twenty states in the United States.

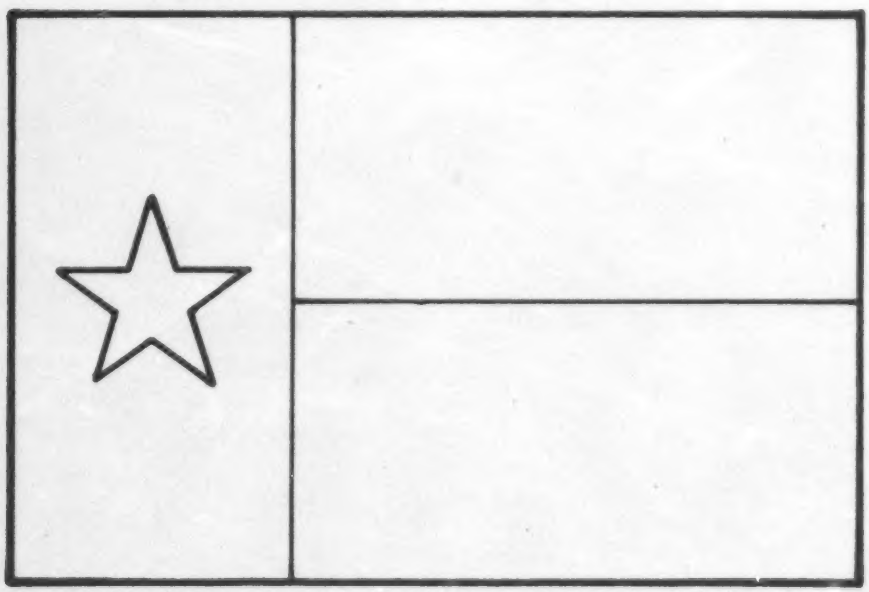
Eighth Flag: The Panhandle of Oklahoma was claimed by Mexico. *The Flag of Mexico* had three stripes. Nearest to the flag pole was a green stripe. In the middle was a white stripe. On the end was a red stripe. On the white stripe was an eagle with a snake in his claws. This was from an old Indian legend.

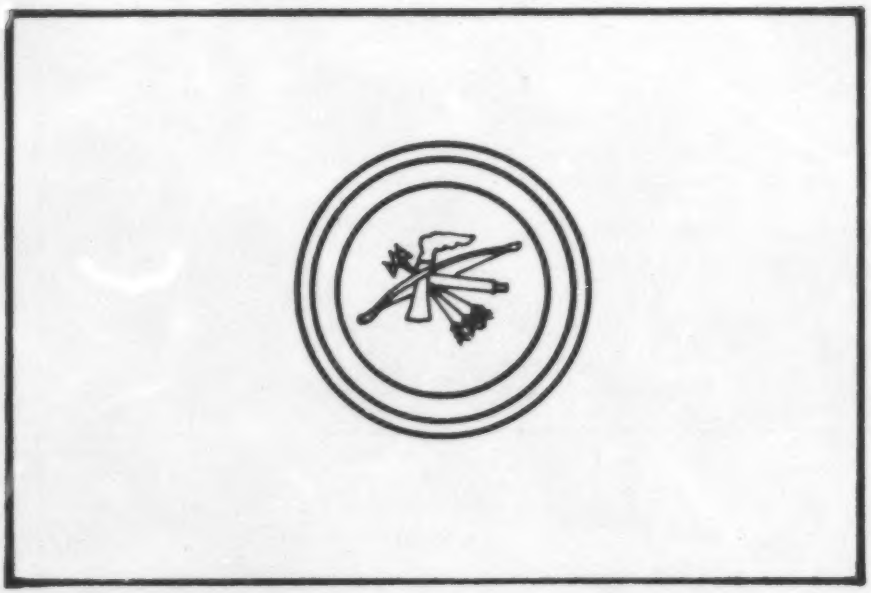




Ninth Flag: Texas claimed the Oklahoma Panhandle. The *First Texas Flag* was sky blue with a gold star in the middle.

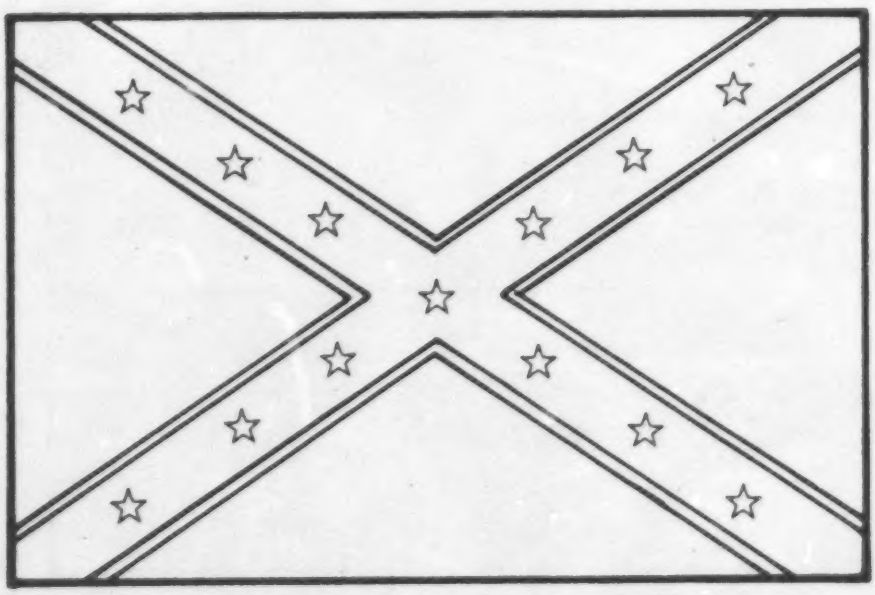
Tenth Flag: *The Lone Star Flag of Texas* was the tenth flag over Oklahoma. This is the Texas flag of today. It has a wide blue stripe with a white star on it near the flag pole. Next to the blue stripe are two stripes. On the top is a white stripe. On the bottom is a red stripe.





Eleventh Flag: *The Choctaw Flag* was carried by Choctaws who fought for the South in the Civil War. This flag was blue. In the middle was the Choctaw seal. The seal was gold with red and brown. It is a bow and arrows.

Twelfth Flag: *The Confederate Battle Flag* flew over Oklahoma during the Civil War. This flag was red. It had a blue cross on it. Outside of the blue cross was a white cross. There were thirteen white stars on the blue cross.



Thirteenth Flag: *The first Oklahoma State Flag* was made soon after Oklahoma became a state. It was a red flag. In the middle of the flag was a white star. Around the white star was a blue line. In the middle of the star was a blue 46. Oklahoma was state number 46.

Fourteenth Flag: *The Oklahoma State Flag* of today was first made in 1925. The flag is sky blue. In the middle of the flag is an Osage Indian warrior's shield. The shield is tan. On the shield are small brown crosses. Hanging from the shield are white feathers. The end of the feathers are brown. Across the shield is a Calumet, or peace pipe. The pipe is yellow with red leather tying it together. Around the shield is a green olive branch. Below the shield is the word Oklahoma in white.

The flag was made in a special way. The shield was picked because it means that Oklahomans will be ready for an attack. The peace pipe and the olive branch are symbols of peace. These symbols were picked because Oklahomans are peaceful people who do not want to fight if they do not have to.

FAMOUS OKLAHOMANS

Entertainment

Will Rogers was a famous comedian. He became famous world-wide with his comments on politics of the 1930s.
James Garner is a television actor.
Patti Page is a singer.
Ben Johnson is a movie star.
Tom Mix was an early star of Westerns.

Aviation

Wiley Post was the first pilot to fly around the world alone. He invented a pressure suit for use at high altitudes.
L. Gordon Cooper was one of the original astronauts.
Thomas Stafford has spent more time in space than any other astronaut.
Paul & Thomas Braniff began Braniff Airlines in Oklahoma City during 1920s.
Dr. Shannon Lucid is one of the first women astronauts.

Sports

Jim Thorpe was an Olympic gold medalist and professional football star.
Mickey Mantle was the record holder for most home runs by a switch hitter.
Johnny Bench and Darrell Porter are two of the leading catchers in baseball.
Bud Wilkinson led the University of Oklahoma football team to football greatness in 1950s.
Nancy Lopez-Melton is a championship golfer.
Henry Iba was basketball coach at Oklahoma A & M (now OSU). He led OSU to many championships.
Tom Ferguson has been the all-around rodeo champ.

Captains of Industry

Charles Colcord was an early-day Oklahoma City industrialist.
Frank Phillips was founder of Phillips Petroleum Co. of Bartlesville.
Dean A. McGee was one of founders of Kerr-McGee Oil Co., a leader in the energy industry.
J. Paul Getty is the founder of Getty Oil Company. At one time he was the richest man in the world.
The Miller Brothers, Joe and Zack, established the 101 Ranch and the 101 Ranch Real Wild West Show.

Culture

John Hope Franklin is a world-known historian.
Ralph Ellison is a famous poet.
N. Scott Momaday is a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist.
Willard Stone is a famous sculptor.
Jerome Tiger was well-known for his Native American art.
Maria Tallchief was the first Native American ballerina.

Frontier Oklahomans

Jesse Chisholm blazed the Chisholm Trail from Texas to Kansas, used by cattlemen.
Bill Pickett was an early black cowboy. He pioneered many rodeo techniques such as bull-dogging.
"Pawnee Bill" Lilly had a famous wild west show that toured the world.
Carry Nation was an early-day temperance worker. She destroyed saloons with bricks and hatchets.
David Payne was leader of the Boomers.
Heck Thomas was an early U. S. Marshall. He helped arrest bandits in Indian Territory.

Oklahoma Outlaws

The Doolin Gang, the Dalton Gang, Belle Starr, and Ned Christie were cattle thieves and train robbers.
"Pretty Boy" Floyd was a bank robber during the Great Depression.
Al Jennings was a train robber who ran for Governor of Oklahoma.

Military Heroes

Stand Watie was a Confederate general during Civil War.
George A. Custer was a Civil War hero and Indian fighter.
Oklahombre was a World War I hero. He was the most-decorated Native American soldier.
Raymond S. McClain commanded an army corps in Europe during World War II.
Patrick Hurley was an advisor to China during World War II.
Clarence Tinker was an Air Force hero killed during World War II.

Indian Leaders

Sequoyah was a Cherokee who invented a syllabary to help Cherokees to read.
John Ross was leader of the Cherokee Nation during Removal and the Civil War.
Peter Pitchlynn was a Choctaw leader.
John Jumper was a Seminole leader during Reconstruction.
Quanah Parker was leader of Comanche tribe during the Indian Wars and on the reservation.
Satank was a Kiowa war chief during Indian Wars.
Black Kettle was a Cheyenne chief who was killed at the Battle of the Washita. He tried to lead his people peacefully on the reservation.
Clermont was an Osage chief killed by Cherokees in an early war between those two tribes.
Geronimo was a famous Apache leader who successfully fought the United States Army for ten years before surrendering.
Pleasant Porter was a Creek leader during late territorial times.
Alice Brown Davis was chief of the Seminole Nation.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

AGRICULTURE -- Farming, ranching, and fruit and nut production continue to be mainstays of Oklahoma's economy. 73,000 farms and ranches with more than 35 million acres produce income from crops and livestock valued at some $3.1 billion annually. While the number of farms continues a decades-long decline, the size of them has steadily grown and is now 479 acres, more than double the average farm of 30 years ago. Top money producers are cattle and calves, valued at $1,460,000,000, and wheat, valued at $845,000,000. Other main sources of farm income are grain sorghums and feed grains, cotton lint, soybeans, milk and dairy products, peanuts, poultry, hogs, and alfalfa and other hay.

Livestock sales account for about 65 percent of farm and ranch income, while crops account for about 35 percent of agricultural income. In rankings, Oklahoma is fourth nationally in income from cattle and calves, and is second only to Texas in number of beef cows. Other nationally-ranked crops are wheat, second; pecans, third; cotton, eighth; peanuts, fifth; vetch seed, third; grain sorghum, fifth; rye, seventh; alfalfa seed, ninth; and hay, tenth. In 1977, estimated value of crops in Oklahoma were: all hay, $188 million; milk, $113 million; cotton, $96 million; poultry and eggs, $58 million; peanuts, $57 million; hogs and pigs, $42 million; grain sorghum, $38 million; soybeans, $32 million; and peaches and pecans, $14 million.

Agriculture is ranked with petroleum as Oklahoma's leading industry.

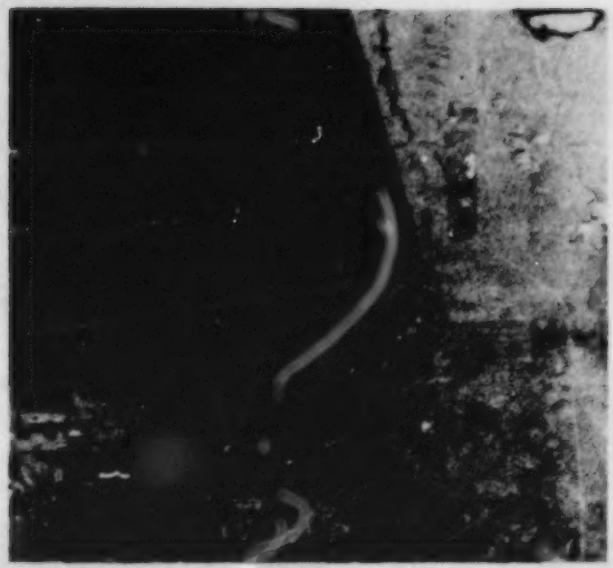
The average gross income per farm was $26,000 in 1979.

Topographically and geographically, Oklahoma's agriculture is diverse, ranging from the semi-arid High Plains of the Panhandle, with its heavy concentration of cattle feedlots, ranches and large-scale farms; to the flat, heavily irrigated southwest section devoted primarily to cotton, wheat and some cattle; to the wheat and cattle farms of western and northern Oklahoma; the cross-timbered central sections where the emphasis is on dairying and diversified farming of crops such as peanuts and hay; the wetter eastern third of the state which produces an abundance of soybeans, pecans, poultry and hardwood timber, and the pine-rich southeastern section, where timber is the king and small farms, many not self-sufficient, predominate.

MANUFACTURING -- In 1979 Oklahoma's manufacturing employment exceeded 183,300 persons. Important industries in terms of employment in 1979 were: machinery, except electrical; food products; fabricated materials; electrical products; printing and publishing; and petroleum refining and related products. Wages and salaries paid by manufacturers in 1979 amounted to more than $2,652,000,000, up more than 18.3 percent from 1978. The major industrial centers in Oklahoma are Oklahoma City and Tulsa. These two cities account for over half of the states manufacturing employment.

MINERALS -- Oklahoma's mineral wealth is substantial and is evenly distributed throughout the state. Numerous and varied mineral industries are active in 76 of the 77 counties. The annual mineral production of Oklahoma is valued at more than $1.2 billion, nearly 4 percent of the entire United States, and the state is the sixth leading mineral producer in the nation. Total production since statehood (1907) is valued in excess of $30 billion.

Oklahoma is well-known as an oil state; this reputation was established in 1905-1929, during the early oil boom days, and is maintained by having petroleum products (including crude oil, natural gas, and natural-gas liquids) account for about 94 percent of the state's yearly mineral output. However, nonpetroleum mineral resources represent a vast reserve of future wealth. Among leading nonpetroleum resources being produced are cement, coal, copper, granite, gypsum, helium, limestone, stone, and sand and gravel. Of somewhat lesser value is production of bentonite, clays, glass sand, lime, dolomite, salt, silver, tripoli, and volcanic ash. Untapped resources include iron, manganese, titanium, uranium, and vanadium. The state also has large stores of underground water.

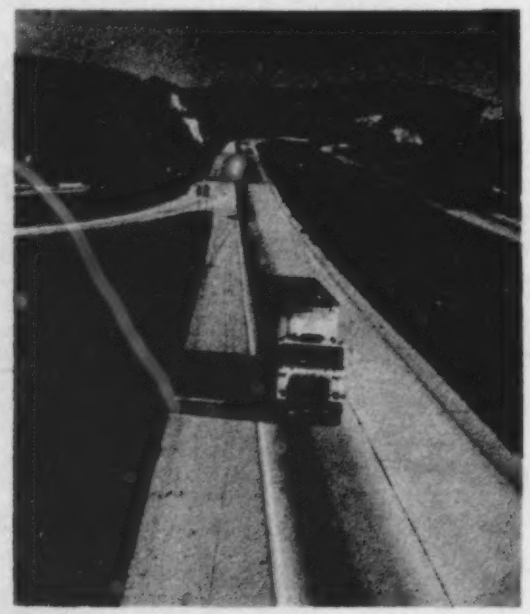


Modern farms such as this one in northwestern Oklahoma County provide a large percentage of Oklahoma's wealth (Photo courtesy of Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture).

Modern industries like the General Motors plant in Oklahoma City provide employment for thousands of Oklahomans and vital services to all Americans (Photo courtesy of Ray Jacoby Photography, Oklahoma City).

Oil and gas exploration continues in Oklahoma. The Anadarko Basin of Western Oklahoma promises to maintain Oklahoma's leadership in the petroleum industry (Photo courtesy of Parker Drilling Company, Tulsa).

Modern transportation routes cross Oklahoma, easing the rigors of travel and transportation (Photo courtesy of Larry Maloney, Oklahoma Department of Transportation).



Oklahoma ranks third among the states in production of liquified-petroleum gas, third in natural gas, third in helium, fourth in crude oil, and fifth in gypsum.

TRANSPORTATION -- Oklahoma's 109,771 mile road system is comprised of 12,178 miles of Interstate, U. S. and State numbered highways; 81,304 miles of county roads; 15,548 miles of city streets; 344 miles of state and national park roads; and 487 miles of turnpikes. Of Oklahoma's six turnpikes, three--the Will Rogers, the Indian Nations, and the Muskogee--mainly serve the eastern protion of the state. The Turner, between Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and the Cimarron, from near Tulsa west to Interstate, are considered interior toll roads. The H. E. Bailey Turnpike runs from Oklahoma City southwest to near Wichita Falls, Texas.

Three major routes make up the larger portion of the state's 814 miles of interstate highways. Interstate 35 divides central Oklahoma, south to north, from the Texas line to the Kansas border. Interstate 40, also in the center of the state, extends west to east from the Texas Panhandle to Arkansas. Interstate 44 extends northeasterly from Oklahoma City to Missouri.

Fifteen railway companies crisscross Oklahoma with 5,005 miles of lines. Eight bus companies operate on regular routes providing interstate and intrastate services, and these same companies, plus three others, provide charter services as well. Ninety companies provide taxi services. Over 4,200 motor carriers (trucks and vans) transport freight regular and irregular routes.

Oklahoma has 285 airports, of which 188 are open to the public. 97 are for private use. The state stands 27th in the nation in population, but 12th in the number of general aviation aircraft, 14th in the number of airports, and 15th in the number of pilots per population. In addition to urban center airports, many of the state's aviation facilities are located in or near Oklahoma's major recreation facilities.

Oklahoma also transports by water. The state's major waterway, the Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System, provides east central Oklahoma access to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Verdigris, Arkansas and Mississippi rivers. The ports of Catoosa and Muskogee, and several private ports, offer transfer facilities for grain, coal, steel, fertilizer, and other products and materials.

TOURISM

Oklahoma is fortunate to have as many areas within the state to visit as it does. Weary city workers can escape to the country by visiting the many state lodges, parks, recreation areas, museums, and other attractions around the state. Most are within easy driving distance from the major cities and towns of Oklahoma, and also, most are free.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS

Chickasaw, Murray County, in and near Sulphur.

Originally Platt National Park, the name was changed to Chickasaw National Recreation Area with the addition of lands around nearby Lake of the Arbuckles.

STATE LODGES

The State of Oklahoma maintains seven State Lodges, where travelers can find comfortable lodging, good food, and many different types of recreation. Also, most lodges have nearby landing strips for guests who fly to the lodges.

The State Lodges are:

Roman Nose, Blaine County, near Watonga, was once a favored retreat of the Cheyenne Indians. Named for Chief Roman Nose of that tribe, the resort is located 70 miles northwest of Oklahoma City in the colorful gypsum hills near Watonga. Nestled in a vast canyon cut into red shale bluffs and white gypsum, the park and lodge a surrounded by cedars, cottonwoods, oaks, and other trees of the area. Several springs in the canyon provide water to Lake Boecher, an excellent fishing area. The lodge and cottages can accomodate up to 30 families.

Quartz Mountain, Greer County, near Altus and Mangum, was a winter campground for the Comanche and Kiowa Indians who once hunted in the area. 141 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, Quartz Mountain Resort offers many recreational activities to visitors. Nearby Lake Altus-Lugert is a fine fishing and boating area, and the rugged Quartz Mountains provide the vacationer with many different opportunities for hiking, riding, and climbing.

Fountainhead, McIntosh County, near Checotah on Lake Eufaula, is one of the most stylish lodges in the state. Located seven miles south of I-40 on S.H. 150, the lodge with the nearby lake has excellent fishing and boating, with camping, hiking, and riding also enjoyable activities at the resort. Golf and tennis are additional pasttimes available to the guests.

Arrowhead, Pittsburgh County, near Eufala and McAlester, is also located near Lake Eufala. Fishing, boating, camping, golf, tennis, and other activities make the vacationers stay enjoyable.

Lake Murray, Carter County, near Ardmore, presents southern Oklahoma at its best. Halfway between Oklahoma City and Dallas, the lodge and park have camping, fishing, hiking, golf, and other activities. Nestled among the Arbuckle Mountains, among the oldest mountains in North America, the resort is in a picturesque setting that makes a vacation there all the more enjoyable.

40

Lake Texoma, Marshall County, near Madill and Durant, offers exciting vacation activities to its guests. Next to 93,000 acre Lake Texhoma, fishing and boating are the favorite pasttimes, but hiking, camping, riding, golf, and tennis are also available. Also in the area are many historical points of interest to visitors.

Western Hills Guest Ranch, in Sequoyah State Park, Cherokee County, near Tahlequah, is unique among Oklahoma state resorts. A western atmosphere located in a colorful setting allows guests to get away from it all. Fishing, boating, hiking, riding, golf, and tennis are favorite activities, and the wildlife preserve located in the park gives guests the chance to view an untarnished Oklahoma.

STATE PARKS

Oklahoma has set aside much of the land that the state owns for the use of its citizens for recreation. Most State Parks have camping grounds, as well as other facilities for those seeking to "get away from it all" for a weekend or a month. Located throughout the state, a great variety of landscapes and scenery are available for those seeking variety from their normal lives.

The State Parks are:
Black Mesa, Cimarron County, near Boise City
Beaver, Beaver County, near Beaver
Boiling Springs, Woodward County, near Woodward
Alabaster Caverns, Woods County, near Freedom
Foss, near Foss, Custer County
Great Plains, Kiowa County, near Mountain Park
Red Rock Canyon, Caddo County, near Hinton
Great Salt Plains, Alfalfa County, near Cherokee
Fort Cobb, Caddo County, near Fort Cobb
Little River, Cleveland County, near Norman
Keystone & Walnut Lake, Osage and Creek Counties, near Tulsa, Sand Springs and Cleveland
Osage Hills, Osage County, near Bartlesville
Wah Sha She, Washington County, near Bartlesville
Will Rogers, Rogers County, near Oologah
Rocky Ford, Cherokee County, near Tahlequah
Greenleaf, Muskogee County, near Muskogee and Ft. Gibson
Tenkiller, Sequoyah County, near Webbers Falls
Robbers Cave, Latimer County, near Wilburton
Lake Wister, LeFlore County, near Poteau
Spiro Mound, LeFlore County, near Spiro
Heavener Runestone, LeFlore County, near Heavener and Poteau
Hochatown, McCurtain County, near Idabel
Beaver's Bend, McCurtain County, near Idabel
Talimena, LeFlore County, near Talihina

RECREATION AREAS

Oklahoma also maintains a number of Recreation Areas throughout the state that are preserved in a more wilderness fashion that the State Parks. These Recreation Areas are:

Raymond Gary, Choctaw County, near Hugo
Boggy Depot, Atoka County, near Boggy Depot

Clayton Lake, Pushmataha County, near Nashoba
Sallisaw, Sequoyah County, near Sallisaw
Adair, Adair County, near Stilwell
Okmulgee Lake, Okmulgee County, near Okmulgee
Heyburn Lake, Creek County, near Sapulpa
Feyodi Creek, Pawnee County, near Cleveland
Sequoyah Bay, Wagoner County, near Wagoner
Snowdale, Mayes County, near Pryor
Cherokee, Mayes County, near Vinita
Spavinaw, Mayes County, near Pryor
Honey Creek, Delaware County, near Maysville and Grove
Twin Bridges, Ottawa County, near Miami
Little Sahara, Woods County, near Waynoka
Canton Lake, Blaine County, near Seiling

WILDLIFE REFUGES

The United States Department of the Interior and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation maintain several State Wildlife Refuges where endangered species of birds and animals are protected. These are:

Optima, Texas County, near Guymon
Washita, Custer County, near Clinton
Salt Plains, Alfalfa County, near Cherokee
Wichita Mountains, Comanche County, near Lawton
Tishomingo, Johnston County, near Tishomingo
Sequoyah, Sequoyah and Muskogee Counties, near Webbers Falls

MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC SITES

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROPERTIES

The Oklahoma Historical Society owns and interprets a number of museums and historic sites throughout the state in an effort to preserve and perpetuate the history of Oklahoma. These are:

The State Museum of Oklahoma, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. The only museum in the State showing the total of Oklahoma's history, from early mound builders to the present day. Also presents special and timely exhibitions.

Oklahoma Territorial Museum, 402 E. Oklahoma, Guthrie, Logan County. Exhibits: All phases of life during Oklahoma territorial times, 1889-1907. Artwork of Frederick A. Olds featured throughout. Attached to the Carnegie Library building, site of the inaugurations of the last territorial and first state governor. Good example of late Victorian architecture.

Cherokee Strip Museum and Henry S. Johnston Library, Ditchwitch Road, 1/4 mile E. of I-35 exit, Perry, Noble County. Exhibits: Artifacts of pioneers and early day settlers of the Cherokee Strip. Library of former Governor Johnston

Museum of the Cherokee Strip, 4th and Owen Garriott, Enid, Garfield County. Exhibits: Indian artifacts and pioneer materials pertaining to settlement of Cherokee Strip. Agricultural exhibits in an attached exhibit building.

Homesteaders Sod House, Highway 8, near Cleo Springs, Major County, and Aline, Alfalfa County. The only remaining original sod house building in the United States. Built by homesteader with furnishings of the period.

No Man's Land Historical Museum, Panhandle State University campus, Goodwell, Texas County. Exhibits: William E. Baker Archeological Collection, pioneer history, anthropology, geology, history, biology, art gallery, library, archives.

Museum of the Western Prairies, 1100 N. Hightower, Altus, Jackson County. Exhibits: History of southwestern Oklahoma. Rotating exhibits featuring local Indian artifacts, early Spanish explorers, soldiers, cattlemen, early urban civilization, all depicting the life of the plains people.

Chisholm Trail Historical Museum, Highways 81 and 70, Waurika, Jefferson County. Exhibits: Traces the history of the Chisholm Trail. Belongings of pioneers and cattlemen, weapons, badges, posters, saddles, replicas of Jesse Chisholm's wagon, slide-tape program on the Chisholm Trail.

Murray-Lindsay Mansion, 2 miles S. of Lindsay on Highway 76, Garvin County. Exhibits: Mansion of Frank Murray, early day rancher-farmer of the Chickasaw Nation. Construction began in 1879. Furnished in period artifacts.

Chickasaw Council House, Court House Square, Tishomingo, Johnston County. Exhibits: Original log council house built in 1856. First capitol of Chickasaws in Oklahoma. Artifacts and exhibits related to pre-removal, removal and resettlement of Chickasaws.

Ft. Washita, 11 miles E. of Madill, Marshall County, on Highway 199, and 10 miles N.W. of Durant, Bryant County, on Highway 78-199. Exhibits: Ruins of the fort, constructed in 1842. General Cooper's cabin, reconstructed South Barracks. Fort provided protection for the civilized Chickasaws and Choctaws against the Plains Indians.

Ft. Towson, 1 mile N.E. of Ft. Towson, Choctaw County. Exhibits: Display of artifacts found at fort site, ruins of the 1824-1854 army post, second oldest in Oklahoma.

Sequoyah's Home, 11 miles S.E. of Sallisaw, Sequoyah County, on State 101. Exhibits: 1829 log cabin home and related artifacts of Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet, and a curator's cabin where Indian crafts are exhibited.

Thomas-Foreman House, 1419 W. Okmulgee St., Muskogee, Muskogee County. Exhibits: Home where Grant and Carolyn Foreman, two of Oklahoma's outstanding historians, lived and wrote. Original furnishings and their private collections.

Jim Thorpe House, 706 E. Boston, Yale, Payne County. Exhibits: Restored and furnished home of the internationally famous Oklahoma athlete, who lived there from 1917 to 1923.

Tom Mix Museum, 8th and Don Tyler, Dewey, Washington County. Exhibits: Personal collection, clothing, saddles, trophies, pictures and records of the movie star. Silent Movie Theater showing Tom Mix movies.

Frank Phillips Home, 1107 Cherokee, Bartlesville, Washington County. Exhibits: twenty-six room mansion of Frank Phillips, founder of Phillips Petroleum Co. Built in 1909, elaborately restored.

Peter Conser Home, 4 miles S. and 3 1/2 miles W. of Heavener, LeFlore County. Exhibits: Restored late 19th century home of Peter Conser, outstanding leader of the Choctaw Lighthorsemen, an early day Indian law enforcement group. many original furnishings.

Choctaw Chief's House, 1 mile N., 1 1/2 mile E., 1/4 mile S. of Swink, Choctaw County. Exhibits: Oldest standing residence in Oklahoma. 1830s log home built for Chief Thomas LeFlore during the Choctaw removal. Artifacts and furnishings of 1800s.

State Capital Publishing Company Museum, 301 W. Harrison, Guthrie, Logan County. This museum commemorates the publishing industry in Oklahoma with exhibits on printing techniques as well as the newspapermen's role in early Oklahoma.

Other museums and historic sites to be opened within the next year are:

Drummond Home, Hominy, Osage County

Museum of Higher Education in Oklahoma, O.S.U. campus, Stillwater, Payne County.

Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County.

Honey Springs Battlefield, near Oktaha, Muskogee County. Largest Civil War battle fought in Oklahoma, 1863.

Fort Gibson, Fort Gibson, Muskogee County.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS OF INTEREST

Alva, Woods County. Cherokee Strip Museum; Northwestern Oklahoma State University Museum.

Anadarko, Caddo County. Anadarko Philomathic Museum; Indian City, U. S. A.; National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians; Southern Plains Indian Museum and Crafts Center.

Apache, Caddo County. Apache State Bank Museum.

Ardmore, Carter County. Eliza Cruce Hall Doll Museum; Charles B. Goddard Center for Visual and Performing Arts; 700 Ranch House; Tucker Tower Museum.

Arnett, Ellis County. Log Cabin.

Atoka, Atoka County. Confederate Cemetery.

Bartlesville, Washington County. History Room; Nellie Johnstone Oil Well; Phillips Petroleum Company Exhibit Hall; Woolaroc Museum.

Beaver, Beaver County. Beaver City Musuem.

Blackwell, Kay County. Top of Oklahoma Historical Society's Cherokee Outlet Museum.

Broken Bow, McCurtain County. Forest Heritage and Education Center of the South; Chief Gardner Mansion/Museum, Cypress Tree; Memorial Indian Museum.

Buffalo, Harper County. Graff Rock Museum.

Cache, Comanche County. Eagle Park Old West Ghost Town; Quanah Parker Center.

Canton, Blaine County. Cheyenne-Arapaho Museum and Archives.

Chandler, Lincoln County. Lincoln County Historical Society Museum of Pioneer History.

Cheyenne, Roger Mills County. Black Kettle Museum; Washita Battlefield.

Claremore, Rogers County. J. M. Davis Gun Museum; Lynn Riggs Memorial; Will Rogers Memorial.

Clinton, Custer County. Western Trails Museum.

Coalgate, Coal County. Coal County Historical & Mining Museum.

Collinsville, Tulsa County. Collinsville Depot Musuem.

Cookson, Cherokee County. Fort Chickamauga.

Coweta, Wagoner County. Mission Bell Museum.

Cushing, Payne County. Cimarron Valley Railroad Museum.

Dewey, Washington County. Dewey Hotel.

Drumright, Creek County. Drumright Community Historical Society.

Duncan, Stephens County. Stephens County Historical Museum.

Durant, Bryant County. Museum of the Red River Valley Historical Society.

Edmond, Oklahoma County. Central State University Museum.

Elk City, Beckham County. Old Town Museum.

El Reno, Canadian County. Canadian County Historical Museum; Fort Reno.

Enid, Garfield County. Midgley Museum.

Fort Gibson, Muskogee County. Fort Gibson Stockade; Fort Gibson National Cemetery; Judge Garrett's House of History.

Fort Sill, Comanche County. U. S. Army Field Artillery and Fort Sill Museum.

Fort Supply, Woodward County. Fort Supply Museum.

Gate, Harper County. Gateway to the Panhandle Museum.

Gore, Sequoyah County. Cherokee Courthouse.

Granite, Greer County. Ford's Museum.

Grove, Delaware County. Har-Ber Village; Thunderbird Frontier Museum.

Guthrie, Logan County. Scottish Rite Temple.

Haworth, McCurtain County. Henry Harris Home.

Heavener, LeFlore County. Runestone Area.

Hugo, Choctaw County. Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home.

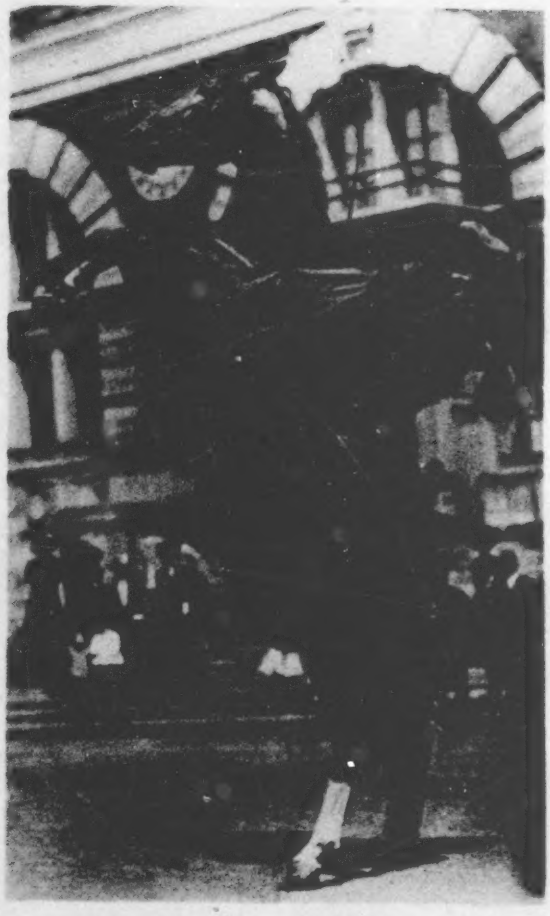
Idabel, McCurtain County. Magnolia Mansion; Museum of the Red River.

Kansas, Delaware County. Dripping Springs Antique Horse Drawn Vehicle Museum.

Kaw City, Kay County. Kaw City Museum.

Kingfisher, Kingfisher County. Chisholm Trail Museum; Seay Mansion.

Laverne, Harper County. Laverne Museum.
Lawton, Comanche County. Museum of the Great Plains.
Leedey, Custer County. Boswell Museum.
Mangum, Greer County. Old Greer County Museum and Hall of Fame.
McAlester, Pittsburg County. Army Ammunition Plant Museum.
Medford, Grant County. Grant County Museum.
Miami, Ottawa County. Dobson Memorial Center; Mullen Rock Museum.
Millerton, McCurtain County. Wheelock Mission Church.
Muskogee, Muskogee County. Antiques, Inc.; Bacone College Indian Museum; Five Civilized Tribes Museum; U. S. S. Batfish.
Newkirk, Kay County. Newkirk Community Historical Museum.
Norman, Cleveland County. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma; Norman and Cleveland County Historical Museum; Stovall Museum of Science and History.
Nowata, Nowata County. Nowata County Historical Museum.
Okemah, Okfuskee County. Territory Town Museum.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Artsplace II; Doctor T. B. Lackey Museum; Forty-Fifth Infantry Division Museum; National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center; National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum; Oklahoma Art Center; Oklahoma Firefighters Museum; Oklahoma Heritage Center; Oklahoma Museum of Art; Oklahoma State Capitol; Omniplex, Kirkpatrick Planetarium; 1889ers Harn Homestead Museum & Gardens.
Okmulgee, Okmulgee County. Creek Nation Council House and Museum.
Oologah, Rogers County. Will Rogers Birthplace.
Pauls Valley, Garvin County. Washita Valley Museum.
Pawhuska, Osage County. Osage County Historical Museum; Osage Tribal Museum.
Pawnee, Pawnee County. Pawnee Bill Museum.
Ponca City, Kay County. Marland Estate; Pioneer Woman Statue, Rose Garden, Museum; Ponca City Cultural Center Museum.
Poteau, LeFlore County. Kerr Museum.
Purcell, McClain County. McClain County Historical Museum.
Rose, Mayes County. Saline County Courthouse.
Salina, Mayes County. Chouteau Memorial.
Sapulpa, Creek County. Sapulpa Historical Museum.
Shawnee, Pottawatomie County. Museum of Special Interest Cars; Pottawatomie County Historical Society Museum; The Gerrer Collection of St. Grerory's Abbey and College.
Stillwater, Payne County. Gardiner Gallery; National Wrestling Hall of Fame; Sheerar Cultural and Heritage Center Museum.
Stilwell, Adair County. Golda's Old Stone Mill.
Sulphur, Murray County. Travertine Nature Center.
Tahlequah, Cherokee County. Cherokee National Museum; Murrell Home
Tishomingo, Johnston County. Arrowhead Museum.
Tonkawa, Kay County. A. D. Buck Museum of Science and History.
Tulsa, Tulsa County. Rebecca & Gershon Fenster Gallery of Jewish Art; Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art; Alexander Hogue Gallery of Art; Philbrook Art Center; Tulsa County Historical Society Museum; World Museum/Art Center.
Tuskahoma, Pushmataha County. Choctaw Council House.
Vinita, Craig County. Eastern Hills Trails Museum.
Wagoner, Wagoner County. Wagoner Indian Territory House Museum; Oklahoma Historic Fashions, Inc.
Warner, Muskogee County. Connors College Museum.
Watonga, Blaine County. T. B. Ferguson Home
Wewoka, Seminole County. Seminole Nation Museum.
Woodward, Woodward County. Pioneer Museum.
Wynnewood, Garvin County. Eskridge Hotel Museum.



Oklahoma's women played many important parts in the early history of the state. One of these roles was as Wild West Show participants. Oklahoma's Mabel Tompkins (pictured here) and Lucille Mulhall were the state's answer to Annie Oakley.

Women of Okla na

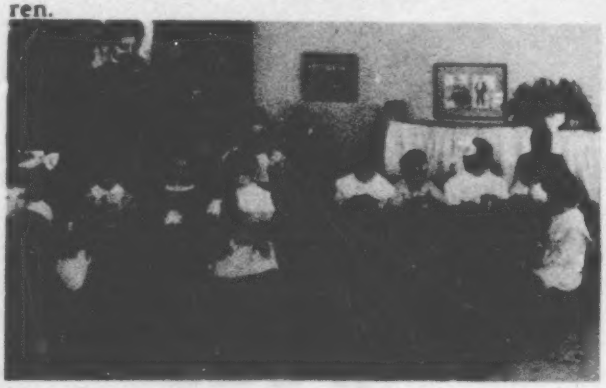
Women have played a prominent role in the development of Oklahoma from frontier to state. Indian women and women missionary teachers did much to teach the Five Civilized Tribes to read and write, both in English and their native tongues. Women helped to open the territory of Oklahoma, as boomers and as participants in the land runs. They established towns and farms, and built the foundation for the state of Oklahoma. Playing a prominent role in culture, business, entertainment, politics, and education, women have made their mark on the state.

Education has been one of the most important livelihoods for Oklahoma's women. Even before Oklahoma was divided into Indian reservations, missionaries and teachers sought out the wild Indians, bringing them the gospel and the written word as a means to civilize them. When the Eastern Indians were removed to Oklahoma, missionaries went with them, and, upon arrival in Oklahoma, established mission schools to educate the Indians.

Women also played an important role in the opening of Oklahoma. Women accompanied David Payne and the Boomers on their trips into Oklahoma, and were arrested along with the men and transported back to Kansas. Women took part in the land runs, many making claims for themselves or with their families. In the run of 1893, a group of women even established a town with no men!

Although they could not vote, women played important roles in the drive for statehood in the early 1900s. Women lobbied the Constitutional Convention for the right to vote; when this was denied them, they continued their fight until 1920, when Oklahoma adopted the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granting women the right to vote. Even before women were allowed to vote, one woman was elected to a state office. She was Kate Barnard, the first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. She was influential in the moving of

Education of Oklahoma's youth was entrusted to the able hands of the state's women. From Kindergartens such as this one at Epworth University in Oklahoma City through college women teachers played an important part in the schooling of Oklahoma's children.



Oklahoma convicts from the Kansas State Penitentiary, where they were being held, to the new Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester. Another important woman political figure in early Oklahoma was Alice M. Robertson, elected to the United States Congress in 1920. She was only the second woman elected to a national office.

Education in statehood was as important as education in territorial times, and women carried most of the teaching load during this time. Until the last fifty years, women were paid less than men to teach the same courses in the same schools. Teacher organizations, established by women, were instrumental in righting this wrong.

During hard times, which have often come to Oklahoma, women have done a great deal to keep together families and communities. Before government assistance was given to destitute people, women's groups were organized to see to the welfare of less fortunate Oklahomans. Even after the New Deal of the 1930s was adopted, women continued playing important parts in seeing that no Oklahoman would go hungry or without basic necessities.

As Oklahoma continues to grow, so will the role of women in the state. Jobs traditionally held by men are becoming more open to women, and the state's educational system is producing women better able to compete for critical postions. Oklahoma is indeed a land of opportunity, where any person can achieve their potential.

Even though surrounded by the poverty of the Great Depression, these Oklahoma women portray the courage and optimism of the Sooner State.

Blacks in Oklahoma

Blacks have long been associated with Oklahoma. The Five Civilized Tribes, as slaveholders, brought their slaves with them from the East. With the end of the Civil War, the black slaves were freed, becoming citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes and playing important roles in the politics of those tribes. Even though they were prevented by law from holding certain positions blacks solved those problems by establishing all-black towns, where they would be able to govern themselves without outside interference. When the reservations of the Five Tribes were alloted to the tribal members, blacks were awarded land the same as Indian citizens. In many cases this was the first time that blacks were allowed to own their land.

Blacks played an important role during the period between the Civil War and the opening of Oklahoma. Black cowboys helped to drive the cattle from Texas to Kansas railroads. Blacks helped to build the railroads across Oklahoma that became the focal points of new settlement. And black cavalry troopers of the Tenth Cavalry stationed at Ft. Reno were responsible for arresting and removing the Boomers entering Oklahoma illegally.

When the drive to open Oklahoma for settlement was begun, a publisher named E. P. McCabe wanted Oklahoma to be reserved for blacks only. Although his dream was unfulfilled, he was able to establish the town of Langston as a haven for blacks from the South, a part of the country where they were restricted by law from doing many things. Other black towns were established in Oklahoma Territory, and a sizable black population was centered around Guthrie. At the Constitutional Convention held in 1906, a black man was elected as a delegate, the only black to serve in such an important position.

Blacks have played an important role in the state of Oklahoma. They have also borne the brunt of racial prejudice that has surfaced from time to time in the state. In 1920 a race riot in Tulsa destroyed the black section of town, leaving more than 100 people killed or injured. The Ku Klux Klan during the 1920s commited many acts of terrorism against the black community of Oklahoma. Laws were passed in early Oklahoma to restrict the rights of blacks. However, Oklahoma's blacks weathered all of these attacks and maintained a steady drive to gain the full rights enjoyed by all Oklahomans. In 1915 the Grandfather Clause restricting blacks' right to vote was overturned by the United States Supreme Court. In the 1940s and 1950s, important supreme court rulings

Although separated from society by strict regulations, Oklahoma's blacks made significant steps toward bettering their lives. The town of Boley was organized by blacks seeking to govern themselves.

opened the state's universities and colleges to blacks. Beforehand, only Langston University admitted blacks. And in 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal schools were unconstitutional, desegregating Oklahoma's schools. In the late 1950s and early 1960s peaceful protests opened many places that had once been prohibited to blacks.

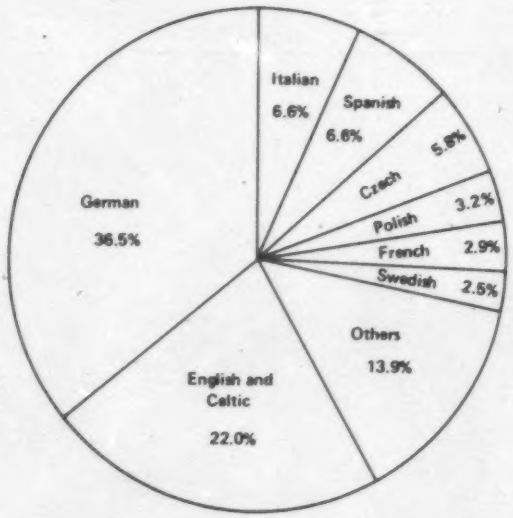
Oklahoma's Other Minorities

Other groups have played important parts in the making of Oklahoma. Immigrants came to Oklahoma looking for a new start, and found in the state a place of freedom and opportunity. Each small, and sometimes not so small, group has made important contributions to Oklahoma. The English and Scottish immigrants have brought mechanical and economic know-how, strengthening Oklahoma's business and economy. The Italians came as miners, filling a void in Oklahoma's labor force at a critical point. German immigrants from Russia brought knowledge of wheat growing, making wheat the most important agricultural product of the state. And Germans make up the largest single national group in the state.

Even in times of war or economic depression, Oklahoma's minorities have not experienced the troubles that ethnic groups in other parts of the country have faced. Even during the anti-German times of World War I, most Oklahomans were amazed at the loyalty of the German-speaking population of the state to the American cause. By World War II, most foriegn-born Oklahomans had been accepted as part of the state's fabric, and few demonstrations against foriegners were held in the state.

Newcomers are constantly coming to Oklahoma. The population of the country is moving about so rapidly that Oklahomans have to be open to new ideas and ways of doing things. Oklahoma has traditionally accepted newcomers with open arms, judging them by their acts and not by their accents or color. This trend will continue in the state, one of the friendliest places in the country.

This chart shows the percentages of Oklahoma's immigrant population in 1910. The groups listed represent the different national and ethnic groups that settled in the state. Each group has made its significant contributions to Oklahoma.



Major mother tongues of the Oklahoma Foreign – Born White Population, 1910.

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